Daily Report

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Cuba

Castro, Dos Santos Activities Reported

Havana Province Toured

FL1912191988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, president of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, have toured several areas of Havana Province.

Dos Santos and Fidel, accompanied by Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, visited Los Naranjos livestock enterprise in Caimito municipality. They were extensively briefed on the genetic and dairy plans of that unit.

Afterward, the Cuban and Angolan leaders toured the town of Los Naranjos where workers of the genetics enterprise live. During the tour, they expressed interest in the living conditions of the residents of that place.

[Begin recording] [Castro, addressing an unidentified young girl] Do you like that town? How long have you been living there?

[Unidentified speaker] Well, we have lived here for 9 months.

[Castro] Where did you live before?

[Unidentified speaker] We used to live in a farm area called La Tumba, over there near the [word indistinct] we (?were) living well.

[Castro] Who do you live with? Do you live with your grandparents?

[Unidentified speaker] No. Only my (?mother) and I live in the house.

[Castro] Do you like the town better?

[Unidentified speaker] Of course!

[Castro] There is electricity here. What advantages do see in living here?

[Unidentified speaker] I see a lot of advantages. We have transportation, electricity, and there is... [rephrases] I say it is better living here because out in the country one lives....

[Castro, interrupting] There is running water, there is everything.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, there is water.

[Castro] So, when the town has a school, a child care center, and the other things, for the [word indistinct], it will be more conveninet.

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, it will be more convenient. [end recording]

Angolan Vice Minister Awarded

FL1912205588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The Order for Merit in Sports was conferred today upon Eduardo dos Santos Franca, member of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party Politburo, defense vice minister of the People's Republic of Angola, and chief of the General Staff [name and titles as heard]. The order is in recognition of the support this Angolan leader gave to the national soccer team of Cuba while he was a student in our country in the sixties.

Dos Santos participation in the Central American Games in Puerto Rico was recalled as an oustanding moment when the ship "Serro Pelado" took the athletes to that island, against the interests of the United States.

Party and Cuban State leaders were present at the ceremony.

[Begin recording Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, identified by caption] If we (?attempt) to summarize the personality of Comrade Antonio Dos Santos during the sixties in Cuba, and we refer to the memory of those who knew him, we would say: He showed a high technical level in his role as a soccer player. He was disciplined, on and off the soccer field. He helped his comrades with the appropriate advise, and he was very demanding. (Ndalo), as he is known and called by our people, deserves... [rephrases] and he will probably be granted other orders and medals for his extraordinary contribution to the brotherhood of combat (?betwen) the FAPLA and peace, in the trenches of independence and integrity of Angola.

Today however, allow to pay tribute not to the member of the politburo, or of the MPLA-Labor Party, or the military person in charge nor the defense vice minister, but to (Ndalo). Simply allow me to pin on the chest of a brother the Order for Merit in Sports granted by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, as it has just been announced. I would also like to give him the commemorative plaque for the 20th anniversary of the historic crossing of the "Cerro Pelado" ship.

Long live the MPLA-Labor Party! Long live the PCC! Long live the friendship between the peoples of Angola and Cuba! [audience responds long live after each cheer] Fatherland or death!... [audience responds: We shall win!] [end recording]

Dos Santos Departs

FL1912152788 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, left Cuba after receiving a strong embrace from the Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, at the Jose Marti International Airport.

At the end of the official visit to our country, which strengthened, even more, Cuban-Angolan brotherhood, the African statesman was also seen off at the airport by leaders of the party, government, and members of the diplomatic corps.

During the farewell ceremony, the national anthems of Cuba and Angola were played. A FAR unit composed of a band and members of the three branches of the service also participated in the ceremony. A representative group of Havana City residents cheered Dos Santos and Fidel, and expresed slogans of solidarity while waiving banners and posters.

Castro Greets Doctors Returning From Armenia

FL1912225088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received at the airport today the Cuban medical brigade that provided help to the Armenian people affected by the earthquake.

[Begin recording] [Announcer] The commander in chief greeted each member of the delegation headed by Health Vice Minister Abelardo Ramirez and Julian Alvarez, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its Health Department. Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov and Public Health Minister Julio Teja accompanied Fidel. Responding to questions posed by Fidel, doctors and nurses explained that Soviet authorities are taking measures in these areas to prevent epidemics and begin rebuilding. They also referred to the affectionate way in which the Armenian people received them. Despite their pain, they expressed their gratitude to Cuba and Fidel.

[Castro] Apparently there were many doctors there, many Soviet doctors. [Passage omitted] Could it be that the Soviets were afraid that you would get sick there and they sent you back because of the cold weather?

[Speakers] [Indistinct passage]

[Castro] Why did you come back so soon?

[Speaker] Commander, apparently it was because of a decision made by the government. Apparently an epidemiological measure is going to be implemented in the city. I believe it was not a matter of thinking we were [words indistinct]. They are taking epidemiological measures because the bodies have been under the rubble and snow for too long, for too many days. They do not expect to find anyone alive anymore.

[Castro] Are you happy?

[Speakers] Very happy.

[Castro] You did everything you could. [Words indistinct] the necessary time. Unquestionably they have mobilized thousands of doctors. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Anniversary of Granma Departure Noted in Mexico

FL1512195088 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro in Tuxpan, Mexico on 4 December during ceremony marking the 32d anniversary of the departure of the "Granma" yacht—recorded; passages within slantlines represent indistinct portions of this speech that were supplied from an identical recorded version carried on Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 11 December]

[Text] [Crowd chants: Viva free Cuba; Cuba yes, Yankees no] Distinguished figures presiding over this event. Dear friends from Santiago de la Pena—this is it, isn't it? [crowd cheers and applauds]—from Tuxpan, from Veracruz , and from Mexico. [crowd cheers and applauds] They are all the same thing, as it is to say that for us Mexico and Cuba are the same. [applause]

I listened very carefully to the generous words of our dear friend Fernando Gutierrez Barrios. [applause] There are so many coincidences that they may seem incredible. All this is so extraordinary that this event being held here could appear unreal. You may say: Why did this historic event take place in Tuxpan, in Santiago de la Pena? It was not historic at the time. It is historic now. You may need some explanation to understand why we ended up in Tuxpan.

We, a bunch of young Cubans, had arrived in Mexico—as Don Fernando explained—with the purpose of defeating the tyranny in our country. Why did we come to Mexico? Because Mexico was a common house for all Cubans. Mexico was the common house for all Latin Americans. [applause]

We all saw Mexico as our own. Cubans have felt this way throughout history. The men who forged /our nation and independence felt this/ way throughout history. When Cuba struggled by itself against Spain—since all other countries had been liberated, Spanish domination continued there for almost over 80 years; we could say that Spanish domination lasted almost a century in our country after other Latin American countries had

become independent. We had to fight very hard. When our forefathers could no /longer stay in Cuba they traveled to/ other countries. This is what Marti—our national hero—did. When he could not stay in Cuba any longer, he came to Mexico. He struggled and worked for the /independence of our country from Mexico. Many/ other Cubans came to Mexico, not only politicians but also intellectuals, poets, and writers. They always found hospitality, affection, and solidarity here in Mexico.

Today I saw something in the museum that I did not know. [Words indistinct] the details of the museum. But we have not found a decree of the first Mexican president ordering a force to organize—I believe it was more or less on 1824—to fight for Cuba's independence. It is also known that many Mexicans participated in our struggle for independence. This is how this tradition was created and throughout the mediated Republic—because after fighting 30 years the U.S. intervention took place and it practically snatched away our freedom. It imposed a constitutional amendment called the Platt Amendment which gave them the right to intervene, turning us into a neocolony. These kinds of interventions took place more than once in our country. During those struggles, Cuban revolutionaries always followed the same tradition. They came to Mexico with the idea of returning to Cuba from Mexico.

So, what we did was nothing more than to follow a tradition of over a century. Don't think only Cubans did this. Other Latin Americans have done exactly the same thing. When terrible situations were created in Chile—when people began to disappear, when torture and crimes took place—hundreds and thousands of Chileans came to Mexico because Mexico was the common fatherland for Latin Americans. [applause] When very sad events took place in Argentina, hundreds, thousands of Argentines came to Mexico, to the common fatherland. The same thing happened when tragic events took place in Uruguay.

When we were here in 1955 and 1956 there were people from all countries. There were Peruvians because there was a tyrannical government there; there were Dominicans because there was a tyrannical government in Santo Domingo; there were Nicaraguans because the Somoza tyranny was already there; there were Guatemalans because the CIA had just defeated the Arbenz government with its intervention. In sum, there were men and women from all of Latin America here. I believe this helps to understand why we felt we had a certain right to come to Mexico, to get organized in Mexico, train in Mexico, to fight for our country's freedom. [applause]

Of course, there were international responsibilities and the Mexican Government complied—as it complies today—with its international responsibilities. Our activities had to be conducted in a very discrete way. They had to be very quiet because we did not want to create problems forthe Mexican Government. We were not getting organized to fight against /the Mexican Government or against any Mexican interests, but to fight against Spain, in the past, and then against the various tyrannies—against the Batista tyranny in our case. Indeed, we all complied with our responsibilities. According to its international responsibilities, the Mexican Government could not allow it but we did not do anything to place the Mexican Government in a bind. We took all the measures to avoid creating embarrassing situations for the government. This is why we were very quiet and very silent.

As I said yesterday in a news conference: Technically, we were violating the law. This is technically. Morally, we were not violating the law. [applause] Politically, we were not violating the law. Historically, we were not violating the law. We were complying with a historic law. These special circumstances forced us to work very carefully by applying strict measures, security measures such as compartmentalization. There is a saying that goes: Much ado about nothing. Our slogan was the other way around. This is the way we worked. [applause]

When we arrived in Mexico we had a watchword: that in 1956 we would be free or we would be martyrs. This is what Fernando said when he explained that we had no other choice than to win or die. Why did we have to do this? Because there was very little faith in Cuba. There had been so many programs in our country, so many politicians who had not fulfilled their promises, that people were disappointed. They did not believe in anyone. They really did not believe in anyone. Our people were skeptical. Many people were trying to play Batista's game by saying that those who were getting organized and struggling to overthrow the tyranny were wrong, that we were using the wrong way.

We had to be categorically committed to return to Cuba with the slogan that in 1956—this is a little microphone for some tape recorder—we had to launch the slogan to categorically commit ourselves to sustain and lift the people's confidence. People already had a high level of confidence in the revolutionaries. This high level of confidence had been visible from our first attempts to overthrow Batista in the Moncada Barracks. We had been in prison. People had demanded amnesty for the Moncada prisoners. Faced with the people's demands, Batista, in his political games, had no other choice than to agree to the amnesty.

People already knew us and they trusted us, but many people tried to kill that/ confidence. They said: Those people are not coming. They even were/ counting how many days were left for 1980 [corrects himself] for 1956, while we were getting organized. Every day they counted the days. They said: 200 days are left, such and such days are left in their smear campaign against us. After so long I ask myself what would have happened if, indeed, we would not have been able to arrive in Cuba in 1956. I am going to tell you: Nothing would have happened. If instead of arriving in December we arrived in January or

February, the results would have been the same. But at the time we viewed that promise with a very great /sense of dignity and honor; we did not/ want to go through the bitterness of 1956 ending without us fulfilling our solemn promise we made to the people.

With this, I want to say that the course of history wouldn't have changed. Perhaps we magnify the consequences it would have had not to arrive on that same year. Ultimately, people /were concerned about freedom. Our people were/ concerned about the revolution. If we arrived a little later or a little earlier, it would have not been important; but we felt very committed. I am telling you the truth. If we had not been able to organize our expedition with a /small group of 8, 10, or 12,/ we would have returned to Cuba anyway, even if it had to be in a row boat. [applause]

I tell you this so you can learn a little about the ideas we had. When we came to Mexico we planned to return to Cuba with a contingent of around 300 men. We estimated that that was the minimum number of men needed to begin fighting in the Sierra Maestra. This was our plan. As the saying goes—I don't know if Mexicans know it—to say something and to do something are two different stories [una cosa piensa el borracho y otra cosa piensa el bodeguero]. [laughter, applause] This is what we thought we needed as a minimum and we could not meet the minimum. We could not collect the economic resources. It was very difficult to get weapons, much less automatic weapons.

We knew the enemy had planes and if we had automatic weapons we could launch an antiaircraft attack with a certain degree of effectiveness. In the end we returned to Cuba with a single automatic weapon. This is what we had. We had bolt action rifles, telescopic rifles, and some semi-automatic weapons. We did not return with the supplies we thought were the minimum required to fight.

At the end, we gathered some dozens of men. We had around 100 men. We had to solve the problem of the ship. We had to find a ship to get to Cuba. This was always the headache of the fighters. How to get there? Through what means? We had to find a place where to leave from. Of course, a place close to Cuba was preferable. It would have been better to leave from Merida, Yucatan, Cozumel. Those places are closer to Cuba. But at that time, 32 years ago, there were no roads between Mexico and that part of the country. The road ended in the Coatzacoalcos [stutters] River, if I remember correctly. It did not have a bridge and it was very difficult to go from Mexico to Yucatan, between Mexico and Cozumel. This is one of the problems we had. The second problem was that Batista's spies would concentrate more on those areas closer to Cuba.

We had to look for the ship first and the place from where to leave. Coincidentally, we found the ship in Tuxpan. We thought Tuxpan was a little further but it was a more discrete place. The vessel was there. It was not easy to find a vessel. We did not have a lot of money. We had to act very carefully. Another coincidence was that not only did we find the ship, but the owner of the ship also owned the house that was there. It was a little house on the bank of the river. The two things we needed: a ship and the house on the bank of the river. We didn't have enough money to buy the ship. Everything cost around $35,000. We had around $10,000 or $12,000. We had other expenses. We had to support the men and buy weapons. Do you know how we bought the ship? On credit. [applause] All of us at one time or another, I am sure, have done it. I am almost certain that there is nobody here who has not bought something on credit at one time or another. [laughter] Either a radio, a stove, refrigerator, television, or anything. Perhaps those who are taking pictures have bought their cameras on /credit. [laughter]

We got a Mexican friend/ so our names wouldn't appear as buyers of the ship. That friend bought the ship. He paid $10,000—which was what we had—and a mortgage was done made on the house and the ship. That is, the mortgage guaranteed the remaining amount we had to pay, which was about $20,000. We solved the problem. Our intention was not to fool anyone. We intended to pay the full amount. We were confident on the success of our cause. We said: We don't have the money now but we are going to pay it later and we did. We paid what we owed later when the revolution had more resources. We didn't want to do the same /thing as the eternal debt—I mean the foreign debt. [laughter and applause] It was a debt of honor—among others—with the Mexican who helped us/. Had we not paid for the ship, the Mexican who helped us would have been the one left with the debt and with problems. We later did pay and in that sense our prediction was fulfilled. This is how we bought the ship.

That ship—this is an exact replica of the ship—was not here, it was next to the town where various ships were placed. The house was here and the ship was there. The ship had to be repaired. It had two engines. The clutch of one of the engines did not work. The clutch skidded. [laughter] Then, we had to find mechanics to repair the ship's engine. They worked on it almost until the day we left. I believe the clutch was finally repaired 24 hours before the time we left. In the meantime, only one engine worked. The location of the house next to the river was convenient. There was a little dock and when we were about to leave we brought the ship here.

I am going to tell you how inexperienced we were. One day we decided to test the ship to see how fast it would go. A few of us sailed /the Tuxpan River aboard the ship. In the river/ with just a few people the ship sailed some 10 or 12 knots, in the calm waters of the river downstream. After we made /the test and almost arrived—sailors must be/ laughing a lot of what happened to us, of our ignorance in sailing matters. We almost got to the mouth of the river, we measured more or less the speed

and we said this ship reaches such and such speed. We started to calculate considering the speed the ship reached in the river. This is why we estimated that we would arrive in 5 days.

The ship's clutch was finally repaired. We thought it was repaired and luckily it was. When the clutch began to skid the engine accelerated and I assure you that I spent the 7 days the trip lasted hearing noises. Sometimes big waves made the screw go almost overboard and the engine accelerated. Everytime I felt one of those accelerations I thought the clutch jammed up again. Luckily, it behaved fantastically well and the clutch /did not skid. However, we had very great difficulties.

Some have asked me if we had spent many days here. I told them we had not. There was only one person who took care of the house, and the sailors and all of us arrived at the same time on the night of the 24th. They had stayed in different Tuxpan hotels. The various registers of the people who stayed in several places must be somewhere around here. Our people stayed in various hotels located in various cities, including Tuxpan. Everything arrived at the same time on the night of the 24th. Weapons arrived; everything arrived. We only used a few hours, but we had problems; at the dock, the ship/ was brought here the day before. It was already repaired. In this way we were able to leave in the morning of the 25th. In the predawn hours of the 25th, 82 men left. You wouldn't be able to guess how we selected the last men. We had too many people and had to leave some behind. We considered who had more experience, more knowledge, and finally we ended up with a group of good comrades. But we had to decide who to leave and who to take because it was impossible to take more. We did it by the weight and size of the people. The last ones we selected were the smallest and skinniest. We thought two of them would take the place of a tall and heavy one. This is why we could not take some of the comrades.

The terrible thing was that we put 82 men in a little ship that was supposed to be for 10 or 12 people. I remember as if it was yesterday. There was a barge. This was another coincidence. A wood enterprise placed a barge about 50 meters from where the ship was. It was an enormous barge. We thought it was unfortunate that they put the /barge there because we had to make complicated maneuvers. But it was not only the barge;/ they had two soldiers guarding the barge. I thought that was the only thing we needed, that they put two soldiers there. We had to act in total silence. We had to be careful how we loaded, how we got in, to leave without being noticed by anyone.

There was another problem. The sailors banned ships from leaving because of bad weather in the gulf. Notice that at the time, not only did we have the barge and the two soldiers guarding the barge, but a storm was coming. There was bad weather and the departure was forbidden. We had to begin the trip under those conditions. We were able to carry out the whole operation. We loaded medicines and weapons and then the men. We started only one engine so we didn't make much noise. We started the right engine so we could maneuver. We didn't make much noise. There was no problem with the guards in the ship. And we began our trip.

That bridge wasn't there before. There was a barge which was pulled by a cable. That big bridge /was built later. It was another headache for us, because the screws could/ hit the cable. The engine had to be stopped, we crossed, and started it again. When we got near the cable we stopped the engines and kept on going. We didn't have problems with the cable. We got to the mouth of the river and got into the ocean. You can imagine how happy we were. We had been dreaming, working, and struggling for this for so long and we were on our way to Cuba. Logically, the river was calm but the ocean waves were terrible. That nut shell began to sway with the waves. It was terrible. The waves were big.

The first thing we did was to sing the Cuban national anthem when we reached the ocean. We were so happy. Few times in our lives have we been so happy as the time in which we saw we were beginning our trip to Cuba. But what happened? The waves made the ship sway and everyone started to get dizzy. [laughter] There was universal dizziness. Look for the pills against dizziness. We had some pills. Do you know where they were? In the bottom. All the weapons were on top of the pills for dizziness. Eighty percent of the people got sick. Imagine how it was in such a little ship with 82 men. I don't even want to talk about that. What we had there was Dante's inferno. [laughter] People were leaving their lives there. They were leaving their lives there. [applause] People were bathed there with the fruits of the dizziness. I was lucky because I was one of the few who did not get sick. [applause]

Dawn came and heavy waves continued. The worst thing that happened to us was that the ship started to draw water 1100 or 1200. Wasn't that enough? A lot of things happened to us. Apparently what happened was that when the cargo was loaded and so many people boarded, the ship drew more and the water reached the boards, at a higher level /it usually had—reached the dry boards, I mean—and water began entering the ship. When we got/ the water pumps, they did not work.

They started to bail the water out with buckets. It was very difficult to see if the water level was raising or getting lower because there were so many waves. I remember that there was a time when I sat there where they were using the buckets and we formed a chain to attempt to figure out if more water entered than was thrown out. That lasted quite awhile. We thought that if the water level continued to rise—we were already about 80 miles away—we would have to head to the coast and see if we could make it. When they got the lifeboats... [corrects himself] not the /lifeboats but the life jackets, they were very old/ and rotten.

I realized that the water started to go down little by little after a frantic struggle which lasted hours. I wondered if the people could withstand this effort for so many days. Apparently the humidity expanded the wood and the gaps closed. Water stopped seeping in. What happened with the ship? We had tested it without the cargo and in the river. It lost about a third of its speed with those waves and the cargo. We had estimated we would reach Cuba in 5 days and the trip lasted 7. The comrades there were alarmed because they were estimating 5 days. When we arrived there there was no surprise. We were expected. We had to sail away from the coast.

In sum, friends from Tuxpan, Veracruz, Mexico, Santiago de la Pena, the fact of the matter is that it was a very difficult trip. I believe that had we known a little bit about sailing we wouldn't have put so many people in the ship and would have had less problems.

We sailed 1,500 miles. We suffered from hunger and thirst. Due to the last minute circumstances in which he had to make the trip, we had little food and water. The trip lasted 2 more days. I am going to tell you more. We arrived with an inch of fuel in the tanks. We had installed many tanks, cans of fuel. /Then the landing was very difficult. We/ had a sailor. We had a professional sailor among us. He had been in the navy in Cuba and had been expelled by Batista. He joined us. We told him we were are going to a certain specific point. When we got there, there was terrible confusion with the buoys in the landing spot. He turned around. He did it again so he could orient himself. It was already daytime. He did it three times. I only asked him once: Are you sure that this is the island of Cuba and we haven't landed on Jamaica or somewhere else? [laughter] I said: Is this Cuba?

I asked the question formally. That is land, don't turn around again and head toward the coast at full speed. This is how we arrived. We arrived in a swampy area, the ship stopped, we got off. Men got stuck in the mud. It was very hard to land. We had our problems. This was what we could call our adventures in that ship. We later had our problems. I am not going to tell you the story. I don't want to take advantage of your attention.

We landed on 2 December. Today it's been exactly 32 years and 2 days since we landed. What a coincidence. I have been speaking of coincidences. What a coincidence that at the time we come here 32 years have just gone by. On the 5th, we were being hounded a lot. We had the air force flying constantly over us. Since we were so concerned over sailing matters we didn't notice the troops that were approaching by land. Also, we lacked experience. We had very little experience at that time. A guard post was very close and as a result the Batista army attacked us by surprise and our forces were scattered. It was a very hard and difficult time. Just a /few of us met again, put together seven rifles again, and under very difficult circumstances resumed the fighting to obtain the victory after 25 months.

Perhaps/ it would have been better to take a smaller group since we had to start again with seven. We could have gone with 30 or 40 men in that ship and arrived much more safely. Life taught us. We had the idea of taking 300 men with automatic weapons; we ended up with 1 automatic weapon, 82 men instead of 300, and at the end we had to resume fighting with 7. It was truly a very difficult struggle.

I tell you this so you know this part of history, the importance the "Granma" had, the reasons why this place was chosen, and the reasons why we are such good friends. We are very good friends with all Mexicans but we have to be especially good friends with the people from Veracruz, Tuxpan, of this small town here [applause] precisely, because of all these events which are historic today, precisely when we are about to mark almost 30 years of the triumph of the revolution, a revolution which brought true independence to our country, freedom to our people, social justice to our people. Thirty years are about to be marked.

I was saying that it seems unreal. Who was going to tell us the night of 25 November when we left that one day we would hold this ceremony here, that one day we would meet during a trip to Mexico with the residents of this place, people from Veracruz, with you? Who could imagine this?

So many dangers were ahead of us then, death was waiting for us. To return here after 30 years of struggle and meet with you.... [leaves sentence unfinished] This small town did not exist at the time. There were some isolated houses. This place was very isolated. It would have been difficult to use this house for what we did then. [laughter] No matter how little movement, you would have noticed that strange things were taking place. This house was pretty isolated. There /was practically no population on this side of the river. People lived on/ the other side of the river.

So you can see other tremendous coincidences, at that time, we had the honor of meeting Fernando. They were the authority, immigration authorities, and we were revolutionaries trying to get back to Cuba. Each one was trying to fulfill his duty. Fernando was trying to fulfill his duty and we were trying to fulfill our duty. We became friends, each one doing his own thing. Since we had had some difficulties.... [leaves sentence unfinished] We had been in prison. We were in prison in (Miguel Sul). Interior Secretariat officials had to supervise us. We met Fernando under those exceptional circumstances. What is this story's merit and the most beautiful thing about it?

When we were arrested—a group of us—they thought we were part of the mafia or something, or that we were smugglers. When they found out that we were revolutionaries, that we were people driven by ideals, honest people, they began to feel sympathy toward us. He spoke today with such a great admiration toward the comrades that I believe a whole book could be written based on

that. He met those comrades because of their seriousness, their firmness, their serenity while faced with adversity. He felt sympathy toward those comrades. That sympathy turned into friendship. It was a type of friendship that everyone continued to fulfill with their duties. His duty was not to allow us to carry out activities which were in conflict with Mexico's international responsibilities. Our duty was to go forward with our cause. This kind of contradiction took place. We had the opportunity of seeing not only Fernando's humane nature, but also that he was a gentleman. He treated us as a true gentleman. [applause] He treated us with great respect, with great respect. [repeats] This is unforgettable for us.

Friendship came from there. It has become closer and stronger through the years. Don't you think it is also truly extraordinary that this friend is also from Veracruz? [applause] Don't you think so? Don't you think it is unreal and incredible that this friend would become governor of Veracruz? [applause] Don't you think it is unreal and incredible that this /friend is today interior secretary of/ the Mexican Government? [applause] Those who met under those circumstances over 32 years ago spoke here today. One comes representing that country he wanted to liberate and the other representing the Mexican Government, the president /of the Republic. [applause] Do not you think all these coincidences are unusual and truly extraordinary, that we are/ all here, that the two of us are alive [laughter] and each one of us has a tremendous responsibility. It seems it was done through magic. It appears as though someone invented all this and that we are telling you a lie.

See what a thing, how many coincidences there are? I was thinking about this when Fernando was delivering his eloquent speech today at noon. I thought I had to tell the truth regarding this story so that my Tuxpan neighbors know what happened. [applause]

What vindicates this cause? What makes it appealing? It was a just cause. The story is beautiful because our cause was just. Beautiful stories can come from just causes. I believe this is a beautiful story which came from a just cause, from men with principles, men with honor, gentlemen. They created this almost magical legend. It is a legend.

The inauguration of this friendship museum is very exciting for me. We are terribly grateful. In this return visit—well, I have been in Mexico twice but in the area of Yucatan. This is the first time I have returned here. This is the first time I returned to the capital. It coincided exactly with the anniversary.

The trip to Mexico has been very exciting; to come back and see the changes in Mexico, its advances, its progress. I truly appreciated the invitation extended to me to participate in the change of government. It was not an easy trip because there were some internal differences, views, and opinions. I actually came to Mexico to fulfill an international duty in our struggle trying to unite wills, trying to achieve a greater unity among our countries in the search for solutions to the dramatic problems Latin American people are suffering today. Nothing is farther from my purpose or wishe than to get involved in Mexico's internal affairs. [applause] We will never do that because, as I said, Mexico is like a second fatherland to us.

Mexico was the country that always respected Cuba. Mexico was the only Latin American country that refused to obey U.S. orders. [applause] Mexico was the only country that did not sever relations with Cuba. Mexico was the only country that did not betray the cause of solidarity among the people of Latin America and Cuba. Cuba and Mexico have waged many battles together in the international sphere in the United Nations and other fields. For us and all democratic, progressive, revolutionary men in Latin America, Mexico has an enormous importance. We need Mexico. Mexico is one of the countries with the most prestige in the world. We know it and we need Mexico's prestige. It is a force in the common struggle the Third World countries have to wage. If there is a vote at the United Nations and if Mexico has been suggested for a position, the great majority of the countries always vote in favor of Mexico. Mexico is a common treasure for Latin Americans. [applause]

I know that my visit was not completely understood. Some were hurt. My greatest wish would be that, upon my return to Cuba from this place which revives so many emotions, nobody felt hurt by our visit. I wish that the higher goals, to which we have devoted our lives, were understood. I wish that the absolute respect, in addition to the admiration, sympathy, and affection /we feel toward Mexico in this hemisphere/ was understood. Our relations are exemplary. They are model relations in this hemisphere which go beyond ideological matters. As Fernando said, one took one road and the other took another one. They were two great historical revolutions on this hemisphere. The Mexican revolution was a result of the time in which that revolution took place and the Cuban revolution was a result of the time in which it took place. Now we have a third revolution which is the Nicaraguan revolution. [applause]

They are also /suffering from blockades and aggressions and have also counted on Mexico's solidarity/. We are proud of the relations we have with Mexico. They are a model for the world. Mexico always respected us. It was always loyal, always solidary. We have always respected Mexico. We have always been, are, and will be loyal and show solidarity with Mexico. [applause]

Those who are here and have seen this museum and participated in these events know that what I am saying are not merely words. It is impossible for us to forget the /hospitality or respect we received in Mexico/. It is impossible for us to forget that this was the cradle of our last struggle for independence. That we left from this

beautiful and dear land, through this river, through this gulf which is near here. We will never forget this and it will never be forgotten. [applause]

This is why we are so glad to see the ones gathered here; peasants, laborers, workers, intellectuals, artists, military men, /soldiers, sailors, officers, people, and everything that Mexico/ is today, at this time of remembrance, at this time for us to show our gratitude.

I already said very frankly that the task we had to carry out forced us to technically violate the law; not morally or politically. Even so, if an apology is needed I apologize for technically violating the law. [applause] I ask you to pardon us for having to technically violated the law. We were driven by noble goals. Today these goals are expressed in the close friendly ties. I can tell you Veracruz residents and all Mexicans, that Mexico will always count with Cuba, [applause] that Mexico will always count unconditionally with Cuba. [applause] This is the fruit of the "Granma," Tuxpan, and the things that happened 32 years ago.

We have so many things in common. We have so many similarities. When I was on the Poza /Rica road heading here, I felt I was in Cuba—Cuba's mountains, Cuba's countryside, Cuba's vegetation—the similarity is/ incredible. It is pleasant to arrive and find a group of people that reminds us so much of our own people. I was asking Fernando. Fernando: How do they behave? Do they behave well during ceremonies? [laughter] Do they listen or do they talk a lot? He said: No, they behave well, they pay attention, [words indistinct] I have been able to confirm here that you truly behave well. [applause] You remind us so much of our own people that I could not tell the difference in the same way I can't tell the difference between the landscape. If I can't tell the difference between our landscape and the landscape of this region in Mexico, I can't tell the difference between the landscape of its people. Our people are so similar to you. I see how you react, in exactly the same way. I see that you have such discipline, pay so much attention, are so happy, so receptive, that I would be lying if I said I feel as though I am in a foreign country. I would be lying if I said I felt as though I am meeting with other people who are not my own. [applause]

How nice it is to come here and not have to say: Good morning, good afternoon, [preceding four words in English] [laughter] find me an interpreter so I can speak. It is nice to come here and be able to converse in the same language. See how many things in common we have. Think that this doesn't happen here only. The same thing happens if you go to Nicaragua. We can speak there in our same language. If you go to Panama, we can speak in the same language, or to Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina. We can understand each other in the same language. If we go to Brazil, although they speak Portuguese the languages are so similar that, we can understand each other. I speak in Spanish and speak in Portuguese and we understand each other.

What great cultural richness Latin American people have. How many fabulous natural resources Latin American countries have. How much fabulous talent Latin American people have. How much strength, how much vigor, how much culture, how many principles, how many human values our Latin American brother countries have. Why are we going to be separated from each other? Why are we going to be divided? This is how they want us, apart from each other. Those who want our richness, those who exploit us, want us apart from each other. They want us divided. They want us to be pygmies. They want us to be dwarfs so they can play with the little dwarfs. [words indistinct] but think what our united force means. How much power. How much respect would it inspire. What an extraordinary future. This is why we say that to struggle for the unity of our peoples, for the integration of our peoples. It is not a fast task, it is not an easy task, but perhaps it is one of the most legitimate, most logical, and most just aspiration of our countries. We will achieve it some day. Some day [applause] all together will be able to make /a great giant all together will/ make up a great force as wished by the ones who founded these countries, as Bolivar, Sucre, Hidalgo, Morelos, wanted, as the most illustrious men of Mexico and Latin America have wanted.

This is why I believe this is an event of unity, not only of remembrance. It is not a simple ceremony in which we inaugurated this friendship museum. We are really inaugurating the museum of brotherhood. We cannot speak of friendship between Mexico and Cuba. We have to speak of brotherhood. [applause] I believe this is a ceremony of unity, of getting together, of integration, and that you and all of us are contributing to unity and integration of the Latin American brother countries.

We meet here today marking events that took place 32 years ago. We see the fruits of the seeds we planted then. I believe that the time will also come—in 20, 30 years or who knows how long because years will go by again—and you will meet with people who have not /been born yet. As we are meeting/ today with people who had not been born 32 years ago. I see young ladies and young men who had not been born then. This seems to be a dream. That we are meeting today with people who were born during the course of these 32 years. Time will go by and you will meet with new generations here and in other places. I also hope that in those meetings, those ceremonies, you will be able to refer to how we have progressed, of how much we have achieved in our unity. Years will go by. They go by, I assure you. I am telling this to the young ones. Years go by, I assure you. This is such a simple thing.

Nevertheless, you have to capture it, you have to see it, you have to go through the experience. Years will go by and new progress will be made. Years will go by and there will be new achievements, new successes, new fruits. Years will go by and there will be more hope. Years will go by and there will be more dignity. Years will go by and there will be more justice for all Latin American countries.

Many past times have /been difficult, sad, bitter. On many occasions, our progress has cost fighting, sweat, and blood. The future is ours; it is yours, Mexicans; ours, Cubans; and of all the rest of Latin American brothers. If one day 32 years ago we thought about certain objectives and goals and today through time have seen many of those goals and objectives fulfilled,/ as an optimistic man I am, as a man who life has taught to be optimistic, as a man who life has taught to believe in man, in the ability of man, in the quality of man, in the virtues of man, and the miracles man can make, allow me to dream, to think, /and believe that those goals of unity and integration among/ all our peoples, can become the giant we should be. Those dreams will also become a reality one day.

Dear brothers from Mexico, Veracruz, Tuxpan, and Santiago Pena, I thank you for the warm reception, [applause] the attention you have paid to our words, the unforgettable emotion, the happy day, the extraordinary moments we have lived today. Thank you very much. Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Southern Command Statement Said 'Suspicious'

PA1912131688 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Pedro Otero Commentary]

[Text] In recent days, the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in the Panama Canal area, announced that it will leave the isthmian country in 1999 in compliance with the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Canal Treaties.

According to political experts, this declaration is suspicious because the White House only recently adopted economic and military actions against Panama to perpetuate the U.S. presence in this important interoceanic channel.

This is what the Panamanian foreign minister thinks also. When informed of the statement by the U.S. military, he said that announcements regarding intentions to withdraw are not good enough because Washington violates agreements so often that it is hard to believe that governing U.S. circles have decided to ever leave the canal; and as the saying goes: Promises are one thing and honoring them another.

The fact is that it is becoming increasingly difficult for the United States to impose its will on Latin America. The Central American nations are clear evidence of this, and Panama has also shown during the recent months of U.S. economic pressure and military threats that it is courageous and firm.

The Panama Canal issue and the U.S. intention to maintain its military presence there beyond the deadline has continued to be a high-priority issue for hawks in the United States since the 1977 treaties were signed. These treaties establish that all Yankee troops must be out of Panama by the last day of 1999.

This is why it is difficult to believe the Southern Command announcement that what was agreed upon in the treaties will be respected.

If the White House really intends to honor the treaties, it will receive all the recognition it deserves. However, if this announcement is nothing but a propaganda ploy, then Latin American solidarity will remain on the side of Panama, on the side of staunch Panamanians, until all the Yankee troops leave that piece of Latin American territory.

We will know the truth in 1999.

Raul Castro Praises Reforestation Workers

FL1912132688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Army General Raul Catro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, has sent a letter to the residents of Manati muncipality in Las Tunas for their efforts and achievements in the reforestation program.

Julian Rizo, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politbure, read the message in public in which Raul Castro expresses his satisfaction in receiving the news that Manati has planted 5 million trees. That fact, added Raul in his letter, is undoubtedly a fruitful effort in which the people of that region have played a noteworthy role.

Havana's APPP Holds 'Report Back' Meeting

FL1912233588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2002 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The morning session of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government [APPP] in Havana has ended with the approval of the report back meeting of the Executive Committee and Boyeros territory. The report back meeting is being held at the FAR Universal Hall.

Pedro Chavez, president of the government organ, acknowledged the Boyeros Municipality for the work done, specifically in construction which includes the remodeling of the Jose Marti Airport. He asserted that the Centro Habana Municipality will report back during the next regular meeting. This is one of the territories of greatest commercial activity in the province.

The afternoon session will begin with the discussion of the report of the energy transmission and distribution enterprise. The transportation minister is expected to participate.

First Phase of East-West Highway Inaugurated

FL1912141388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Jorge Lezcano [Perez], first secretary of Havana City Provincial Committee of the Central Committee, has presided over the inauguration of the first phase of the east-west highway. The 8.5 km stretch of road was built by the Blas Roca Calderio contingent.

During the ceremony, it was said that the road is open to traffic in three of its six lanes. It was also announced that next year, without affecting traffic, all its lanes will be covered with (?concrete).

The most outstanding workers of the contingent received acknowledgement certificates for their contribution to the completion of the stretch of road 1 month ahead of schedule. This is one of the most important projects that the Blas Roca Calderio contingent has undertaken.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Today we celebrate an event which important to this ceremony, and the fact itself [as heard]. That is why, in my first words, I wish to officially declare the fulfillment of the commitment made by the workers of brigades 1 and 2 of Blas Roca Calderio contingent to Comrade Fidel and the revolution. [applause]. On behalf of Comrade Fidel, the party, and all the people of the capital, I salute and congratulate you for what you have done. [applause] Fatherland or death ... [audience responds: We shall win!] [end recording]

State Vehicles To Use Restrictions 31 Jan

FL2012030288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0046 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] The Transportation Ministry is working, in coordination with other entities, on the organization of a system which responds to the real needs of organizations, units, and budgeted enterprises aimed at eliminating the improper use of state vehicles which has caused so much dissatisfaction among our population.

Transportation Minister Diocles Torralba, in a meeting with the media during which the transportation reporters circle was created, said the measures will be implemented beginning on next 31 January. Responding to a question posed by our reporter Laidys Montoya regarding the special permit issued to certain users, the minister said they will be given to enterprises in cases in which they are essential. The permits will allow certain vehicles to remain in front of the house of their driver overnight or simply to circulate outside the schedule established exclusively for work-related activities.

The transportation minister added that these permits will only be issued by the chiefs of organizations, authorized territorial delegates, and presidents of the Provincial Assembly of the Peoples' Government.

Beginning on 31 January, it will be forbidden to use enterprise vehicles for recreational activities or in cases which constitute privilege or there is improper use of resources for personal gain.

Citizens Arrested for Killing, Stealing Cattle

FL2012024088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0040 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Text] Citizens Eddy Mulen Suarez, Manuel Alarcon Mendez, and Israel Salazar Baro were caught carrying packages of beef by police near Pedro Pi Township in San Jose de las Lajas. The arrested men were taken to the PNR [National Revolutionary Police] station of Cotorro Municipality and were charged with theft and illegal killing of cattle. These men committed this crime on the three previous occasions. The detainees, who have been turned over to the Havana Provincial Tribunal, reside in Havana and are awaiting trial.

Correction to Castro Armed Forces Day Speech

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Castro Delivers Armed Forces Day Speech," published in the 12 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 3, column 2: sourceline should read:

PA0812150688 Havana International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Dec 88 (correcting time and date) subslug should read: [Speech by President Fidel Castro at Havana's Revolution Square marking the 32d anniversary of the "Granma" landing, the 30th anniversary of the FAR, and the ceremony awarding Havana City Province the Ready for Defense Banner—recorded; this speech was carried live by Havana Domestic Radio and Television Services at 2210 GMT on 5 December]... (changing "live" to recorded, adding additional information)

Caricom

Sugar Producers Welcome U.S. Quota Increase

FL1912234988 Bridgetown CANA in English 1408 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 19, CANA—Chairman of the Sugar Association of the Caribbean, Guyanese Harold Davis has welcomed recently-announced increased U.S. sugar quotas for the region as "most constructive step in the developing relationship" between the two sides.

The total U.S. quota for the region announced last week was 1,240,380 short tons—up from the 1988 revised quota of 1,054,675 short tons. The increase is 185,705 tons.

In a statement released here Davis, also chairman of the state Guyana Sugar Corporation, said: "Coming at a time when 1989 marketing arrangements are being

planned, this is a definite boost to Caricom sugar-producing countries which depend on sugar exports for a large part of their foreign exchange earnings."

New quotas were announced for three of the six Caricom sugar-exporting countries: Guyana to 13,931 short tons from 12,050 tons in 1988, Jamaica from 11,045 to 12,770 for 1989, and Belize from 11,045 to 12,770. Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados both at 8,205 tons and St Kitts-Nevis at 8,000 tons, all retain their old quota levels.

Davis noted that this year Guyana was unable to take up its allocation, which was redistrubuted to Belize and Jamaica. He stressed however, that Guyana intends to take full advantage of the improved sugar quota now offered.

Grenada

Patriotic Movement Head Leaves for Talks in Cuba

FL1912222788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1618 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 18, CANA—Leader of Grenada's small left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement [MBPM] party, Dr Terry Marryshow has left here to hold talks with officials of the Cub Communist Party, aimed at improving relations between the two bodies, the Grenada party's newspaper, INDIES TIMES, has announced. The paper said that it would be the first official visit paid to Havana by Marryshow, a Cuban-trained doctor, since taking over the MBPM leadership in May from former Industry Minister Kendrick Radix.

Marryshow recently admitted that Cuba provides financial assistance to the party for sports equipment for organisations in Grenada.

INDIES TIMES also reported that Marryshow has been invited to attend the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution on January 1. It said that other Grenadians invited for the celebrations include Alimenta Bishop, the mother of late Grenada Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

During 1979-1983 when Bishop's New Jewel Movement party formed the government, Grenada was Cuba's closest ally in the English-speaking Caribbean. Grenada severed ties with Cuba following a United States-led invasion five years ago to topple a leftist junta that had seized power in a bloody coup in which Bishop was killed.

Haiti

Ministry Cited on Election of Sections Chiefs

FL2012005088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination informs that, as announced in the 15 December 1988 communique, the position of rural police agent—or section chief—has by government decree been made an elected position. Under this decree, there have been many changes made in the (?articles) on Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] regulations in connection with the position of section chief.

Each communal section will have one rural police agent, who will serve [k'ap nome] for 4 years. He will be chosen by the population from among the citizens who run for CASEC [Administrative Council for the Communal Section]. This rural police agent will have two assistants, who will take an oath of office and who will be chosen by the commander of the military district with the help of the CASEC.

Once elected, the rural police agent becomes a member of the FADH and must obey that institution's regulations.

This decision reached by the executive is in response to the need to improve the condition of the rural police agents at a moment when the government of the Republic is establishing, within all institutions, the frameworks and dispositions that will make it possible for a proper democracy to be established in Haiti.

Soldiers Allegedly Commit Armed Robbery

FL2012004488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] In Jacmel we have learned that on Saturday night, four men dressed in olive green outfits and armed with Uzis, long pointed knives, and clubs broke into the house of (Leon Franck), the manager of the small savings cooperative fund in La Vallee de Jacmel. (Franck) was forced to hand over the key to the safe and all the money in the box was stolen. He was also stabbed in the chest. Fortunately, he is expected to live.

Also, last Thursday, a group of thieves stole from a consumers coop in the La Vallee de Jacmel marketplace. Everything at the consumer's coop was stolen. [passage omitted]

Former 'Macoute' Magistrate Meets With Press

FL2012001088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Former macoute and magistrate of Gressier (Valcius Estainval) does not hide the fact that he is a Duvalierist, but he also says that he is not the biggest criminal, although he admitted that he had participated murderous acts. He considers it an injustice for all the biggest macoute murderer bosses to be free while he is harassed. He said this at a press conference held Saturday. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Jean Wilfred Napoleon] Mr (Estainval) explained how he became a Duvalierist. It was in order to avenge something.

[Begin (Estainval) recording] I cannot hide the fact that I am a Duvalierist. Everybody knows this. I am one of the victims of society. How am I a victim? In 1950, Estime was overthrown. My father was put in jail for (?14) under Paul Eugene Magloire's government. I always said that I had to back a government so that I could avenge what they did to Estime. [end recording]

[Napoleon] (Estainval) said they had to stop using him as a scapegoat, as a token Duvalierist. He said whenever any crime was being investigated, he was arrested, while nothing was ever happened to the top Duvalierist torturers.

[Begin (Estainval) recording] After 7 February, who did they arrest? Just a handful of people. I am one who was arrested. Now, are you going to tell me that with a government that was in power for 29 years, you take 14 people and put them in jail as the people who committed massacres for Duvalier? Come off it! Get serious! They have as yet never arrested a (?head) of the political police, a prefect, or a minister—and everyone knows that.... [changes thought] They are all still here, whereas I [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Napoleon] When the journalists asked him if he had ever committed crimes, he talked about only one, without giving the victim's name.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [(Estainval)] I shot him. Yes, I did.

[Reporter] Did he die?

[(Estainval)] Ah, [words indistinct] afterwards. After. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Napoleon] Although (Estainval) admitted that he had been the flunky of people in the former regime, he said that he felt that in order for the country to be saved, there would have to be a true change of doctrine in Haiti.

[Begin (Estainval) recording] What is killing the country is the concept of ism. How many isms do we have, in principle, at present?

There is never a doctrine in Haiti. Just isms, which are doing Haiti in. Until the country has a doctrine that allows two parties, you will have isms. Today you go from Duvalierism to another kind of ism, and another and another and another. There are [name indistinct]-ists, Bazinists, de Roncerayists. But it is the ism that is no good. It is the ism that we must combat, because we have been falling into isms since independence. That is the cause of all this country's woes. [end recording]

[Napoleon] The former magistrate denied having shot at two members of the new communal committee that the Prosper Avril government just installed in Gressier. Regarding the St. Jean Bosco Church masscre, in which he has reportedly been accused of participating, (Estainval) said he had nothing to do with it.

This is Jean Wilfrid Napoleon, Radio Soleil, Leogane.

Antibishop Phamplets Found in Cathedral

FL2012010588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report by Jeremie correspondent Luckner Laguerre]

[Excerpts] On the evening of Saturday 17 December, and yesterday, Sunday, Saint Louis Cathedral in Jeremie was full phamplets containing propoganda. It looks as if the wind of discontent emerging after Father Aristide was released from the Salesian order is blowing here in Jeremie too.

Indeed, last Saturday the Catholic faithful in Jeremie found many phamplets inside the cathedral. The phamplets, on the pews, walls and doors, were found both inside and outside the church. The phamplets made accusations against the bishops who head the church. According to the phamplets, the bishops conspired to have Aristide kicked out.

Father (Renaud) , the parish priest, accused of complicity in the death of a group of young people from Anse d'Hainault under the dictatorship, was also accused in the phamplets.

The phamplets described Msgrs Gayot, Romelus, Ligonde, Verrier, and others as bourgeois and hypocritical bishops. Moreover the phamplets state that these men conspired with the Americans, Rome and had the blessing of the Avril/Heubreux in getting rid of Titide [affectionate nickname for Aristide]. [passage omitted]

The phamplets comment on the war declared against the churches of the masses by the church authorities following the St. Jean Bosco Church massacre. The phamplets state other things ask the Haitian people both inside and outside the church to support the church of the poor.

The phamplets conclude: Down with all hypocritical bishops. Down with the church of darkness. Long live the church of light. Long live the church of the masses. Long live the soldiers from the masses. [passage omitted]

Gonaives Official Refuses Appointment

FL2012005688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report by Gonaives correspondent (Bredy Delva)]

[Excerpt] The situation at Gonaives City Hall is still unclear, despite the military government decree on Tuesday 16 December [date as heard] dissolving the communal council of 17 January 1988 and replacing it with another—made up of Gabriel Jean, president; Mrs (Marie-Therese St Armand), vice-president; and Jean Chery, member.

It seems the situation became more serious following the refusal of the appointment by the president of the new communal council. In a letter to President Avril, the president of the new council gave the reasons behind his decision which goes against the presidential decree dated 13 December 1988.

We remind listeners that there has as yet been no communal installation. We are on the scene and following events because the situation cannot remain as is. We will inform you of changes. [passage omitted]

Peasants Decide Not To Pay Taxes 26-30 Dec
FL2012002388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 18 December, was a day for peasant assembly and mobilization nationwide to protest the high cost of living and abuses by rural section chiefs. In Miragoane, some 300 peasants gathered to protest the high cost of living, taxes, and abuses by section chiefs. They decided not to pay taxes from 26 to 30 December, while waiting for the Haitian Government to lower the prices of basic necessities that peasants do not produce. This was announced in a statement made by the peasants.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We of the ORDP/ANOP [Organization for the Assembly and Defense of the Peasants, member of the National Alliance of People's Organizations], after reviewing everything that has been said here, are giving the government until 30 December to make a decision. [passage omitted]

While waiting for the government's decision, we will not pay marketplace site nor livestock taxes from 26 to 30 December. This week willl be a gift to ourselves, our Christmas gift to ourselves—because Santa Claus is not in the habit of visiting rural areas.

We are urging everyone: Blow the conch shell at noon everywhere in Haiti to show that we are taking these days as our gift to ourselves. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

In all their statements, the peasants accused the Haitian Government of not doing its duty and of being the cause of their present situation. One peasant said that by gathering to protest, they are helping the authorities understand what is going on in the hearts of the peasants—because if things continue one day they [not further identified] will be shocked to see the peasants they have kept in slavery for as long as anyone can remember rebel. The peasants called on people who are satisfied and have the basic necessities to come their struggle because they are Haitians, too. [passage omitted]

Regarding Father Aristide's expulsion from the Salesian Order, the peasants said they are going to act on this as well. The decision saddened them. However, they also suspect that every time they protest, a new problem comes along to divert them. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Responds to Criticism of Budget
FL1912230388 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 18, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Junior Finance Minister Selby Wilson has promised support in rescheduling mortgage payments by civil servants, whose salaries are to be cut by 10 percent. Wilson and Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson briefed ruling party activists Saturday evening on how to respond to criticisms of the budget package, the third by the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) administration, presented Friday.

Wilson promised to negotiate on behalf of the country's 65,000 public servants to get mortgage payments rescheduled. He said government was also willing to take up challenges in court over the legality of the budget cut—one of the most controversial measures in the budgetary package.

Hours after the announcement of the cut in salaries government critics and public sector unions questioned the legality of the across-the-board measure.

A reduction in the retail price index allowance (COLA) to the public service in 1987 led to a high court judgement against government this year for unilaterally taking the step without the mandatory consultation with public service unions. Government has promised this time around to enact legislation to clear itself of the latest public service-related budget cut.

"In all legal matters, people who feel that they are agrieved have recourse to the courts to challenge their position," Wilson said. "I don't believe that it is illegal. I believe that it is a step we had to take and we are taking it, we are proceeding on the basis that we are doing it through the right vehicle. We recognise that that vehicle can be challenged and we would have to live by whatever decision the arbitrators on the matter arrive at."

The Public Service Association (PSA) said on Saturday that it planned to ask its 17,000 civil service members not to pay their mortgages in protest against the cuts. Wilson said government planned to negotiate with local banks for such rescheduling to take place." We will, through persuasion and talks, try to encourage the banks and the trust companies to be a little more tolerant in that area."

"In my own experience, I find that, if you deal properly with your financial affairs, then those administrations have a higher degree of tolerance...If you decide that you are delinquent and you can't pay you don't talk to them, they they behave in a different way." "The individuals have to take some onus on it but we will do as best as we can, through persuasion," Wilson said.

After the question and answer session with Wilson, Robinson, also NAR political leader, took to task the critics of his two-year-old government describing them as "loud mouths" running around the country denigrating everything government did.

He criticised the former ruling People's National Movement [PNM] saying no information had existed on the state of the country's debt when his government took power in December 1986, that PNM technocrats had advised his administration to go straight to the International Monetary fund (IMF) without laying any plans, and that the PNM had allowed state sector companies to be run like family empires draining the public purse.

Robinson estimated that the average taxpayer would pay one third less tax through his new taxation system and that the 10 percent in salaries would be offset by personal income tax breaks promised in the budget.

Government estimates that 55,000 people will no longer pay tax under the new system, 230,000 people will pay less tax, and 36,000 will pay more.

Hitting out at the loopholes used by high income earners, Robinson said his new tax system was more equitable.

He ended with a stinging attack on critics, saying: "they're saying all over the place, Robinson can't have a public meeting, he can't stand before the population." "We will see who can't stand before the population in 1991," robinson told applauding party faithful.

Trade Unions Respond

FL1912225788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1528 GMT 18 Dec 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 18, CANA—One trade union geared to stage a demonstration this week, while a leading trade unionist suggested non-payment of mortgages following government's announcement Friday of a 10 percent across-the-board cut in the salaries of the 65,000 public servants here.

"This is illegal since remuneration is set by a process of collective bargaining," Public Services Association (PSA) president Dr Kenrick Rennie, said. "We thought that the prime minister would have learned a very valuable lesson when Justice Ibrahim ruled that it was illegal to remove the cost of living allowance but now he has perpetuated another act disregarding the bargaining process by introducing this cut in salaries," teacher's union president, Anthony Garcia said.

Prime Minister robinson announced the salary reductions Friday in his budget presentation.

The Trinidad and Tobago unified teacher's association met in emergency session Saturday and decided to stage a demonstration in Port-of-Spain on Wednesday against the salaries measure. The budget debate begins Wednesday with the leader of the opposition responding to the presentation.

In the 1987 budget Robinson cut a retail prices linked cost of living allowance (COLA), an action the High Court this year ruled to be illegal. The prime minister said his administration accepted the ruling of the industrial court to reinstate COLA but could not yet afford to pay the money owed. Under the laws establishing the rights of the public service, government, as an employer, is obligated to negotiate any changes with public sector unions—hence the COLA ruling from the high court.

The country's large state sector has been one of the biggest recurrent spending challenges facing the government since it took office in 1986. Despite cuts in temporary appointments, casual workers, and other possibly less painful trimmings, government still spends 48 percent of its total recurrent expenditure on wages and salaries.

On Friday night economic analysts described the new move to cut salaries as a brave one since it risks causing disaffection within the large state sector.

A voluntary severance and early retirement scheme, which goes into effect from January 1989, and its 1987 COLA cuts sparked demonstrations by the civil service.

Rennie predicted a cut in jobs as the result of the decrease in money allocated for the public utilities. He said Saturday that public servants do not have 10 percent of their salaries to spare since much of their income is tied up in mortgage and other commitments.

"Public servants will now have to do their own restructuring. We just cannot keep losing income and continue to pay mortgages and buy food at increased prices," Rennie said. "We will just have to reschedule our debts and stop paying mortgages to the National Housing Authority," he remarked.

In his budget presentation, Robinson explained that, this year, wage and salary payments to the state sector exceeded total tax collections from the key oil sector by over 40 percent. Robinson announced the 10 percent reduction "across the board" to salaries and wages of central government including the Tobago House of Assembly, local government bodies, and statutory

boards. He also announced cuts in transfers and subsidies to the public utilities by 74 million dollars, state enterprises by 24 million dollars, and local authorities, by 23 million dollars.

Robinson said his administration also assumed that 9,600 public servants would take up the offer to leave under the Voluntary Termination of Employment Plan (UTEP) leading to a saving of 255 million dollars in the third year of the programme—1991. He said new legislation dealing with the matter would be enacted.

Trade Union Movement Lambastes 1989 Budget

FL1912232988 Bridgetown CANA in English 2202 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Dec 19, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's trade union movement Monday lambasted government's 1989 budget presentation Monday, describing it as oriented towards the International Monetary Fund. "The 1989 budget is best described as an IMF remote-control instrument. The budget demonstrates that the government has now become more an agent of a foreign power than a protector of the rights and welfare of Trinidad and Tobago," General Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress [TTLC] Carl Tull, said in a statement.

"There is no question of lobbying or talking with the government again. They are not going to listen to anyone. They can only hear from Washington. They are on a Washington frequency and that is all they will hear," Council of Progressive Trade Unions [CPTU] acting president, Lyle Townsend told CANA. The two trade union groupings met Monday to study Friday's budget presentation.

The budget, the third by the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction administration, includes a 10 percent cut across-the-board of civil servants salaries. A new fiscal system, expected to be in place by 1991, will include a new value added tax on goods, taxes on services, reduced direct taxation for about half of the population and increased personal tax for higher income groups.

"In our view, if the government persists in being the IMF's model child, while ignoring the pain of the masses of this country, they will have only themselves to blame for the chaos that will descend upon this little nation in 1989," Tull said.

The TTLC, which has been the more conciliatory of the two groupings while the CPTU has walked out of government's various attempts at joint consultation, said the budget should be recalled. "It is a budget of malice and a budget of social mischief. A recall of the budget would show the population that the government is now willing to sit and talk about the alternatives. Until the government shows this good faith, it has no right calling on anyone for alternatives," the TTLC statement said.

"The people will have to let them know that they are not willing to accept that at all. Not only must they change that but, in changing that, they must follow it," Townsend said. "In other words, they must go with their policies—the policies must go and so must the government," he added.

Some of the CPTU member unions are already involved in the formation of a labour union-based political party expected to be officially launched by March of next year.

Both labour groupings also commented on the 10 percent cut in civil servants salaries. Government, which suffered a High Court ruling against it this year for a similar cut without union negotiation in 1987, has said it plans to bring legislation to deal with court-ordered wage increases.

The CPTU likened this to what they called "industrial relations by presidential decree" implemented in some South American countries.

The TTLC said public servants; had taken a cut in salary due to various measures implemented under the two-year-old government. "Yet what has this budget given them in return for their sacrifice? A 10 percent cut in salary, a promise to use the law to deny them the industrial court award for which they fought so courageously, an increased prospect of retrenchment, and an attempt to hustle them out of their jobs by so lowering their job security," the TTLC said.

Neither trade union grouping was happy with the tax reform promised by government over the next two years. The CPTU described a new tax credit system as a "backward step" stating that they agreed with progressive taxation but that this was not the way to do it since some very high income earners would actually experience a tax deduction under the new system.

"Under the guise of what it calls tax reform, the government has dealt a slap in the face to working people who have been seeking to improve their savings through the unit trust corporation and the credit union movement as well as through the purchase of bonds," the TTLC said. "The stingy reduction in the marginal tax rates and the even stingier tax credits are nothing but an insult to working people."

Both trade union groupings predicted further retrenchment and economic contraction rather than expansion as a result of the measures. "The budget persists with the mistaken policy of attempting to achieve fiscal balance through expenditure cuts at a time when the revenue

base itself is shrinking," the TTLC said. "This wrong-headed policy fails to recognise that government expenditure today, if well directed, becomes government revenues tomorrow," the TTLC said.

"This budget spells economic doom for the ordinary workers of this country," the CPTU said. The CPTU grouping suggests an alternative which includes avoiding the IMF, refusing to pay more of the country's foreign debt than the country can afford, building up the country through family and community based agricultural development and the taking over of assets held by foreign companies here.

The first act by the country's trade unions against the 1989 budget will come in a protest demonstration around Parliament on Wednesday as the budget debate gets underway.

Salinas Sends Condolences, Aid to Gorbachev

PA1912161288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari sent a condolence message to the Soviet people and Government. He also gave instructions to send aid to the people affected by the recent earthquake in Armenia.

The Government Secretariat, the Foreign Ministry Secretariat, and other government institutions participated in the campaign to collect medicine and various equipment. The Armenian aid was transported by the Soviet airline Aeroflot.

Finance Secretary on Foreign Debt Reduction

PA2012001988 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report on Finance and Public Credit Secretary's Report to Congress]

[Excerpt] Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella told the Chamber of Deputies today that Mexico's foreign debt decreased by $3.1 billion in 1988. He explained that taking into consideration the net terms of the payment servicing the debt, this payment will be 35 percent and not 60 percent of budgeted expenses for 1989. He denied that the economic policy drafted for next year deviates from the principles of the Mexican revolution. He said the government's foreign debt at the end of 1987 was $81.406 billion: At the end of December 1988, this debt will have decreased to $78.300 billion.

The goal of the economic policy proposed to the Congress is to increase real wages and raise Mexicans' living standards on a solid basis and not with monetary illusions. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Reject New Economic Pact

PA1912173388 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 5

[Report by Ubaldo Diaz and Raul Correa E.]

[Text] The left-wing and the right-wing parties have repudiated the new Pact for Stability and Economic Growth (PECE) because it represents the most cruel offense to workers and people in general, in that it condemns most Mexicans to starvation.

Federal Deputy Abel Vicencio Tovar, National Action Party [PAN] National Executive Committee secretary general, said that once again the ruling party leadership, along with a group of businessmen who do not necessarily represent the businessmen and industrialists, has approved a ridiculous pay raise that will not help citizens and which affects the people's standard of living.

He added that PAN will wait until the proposed bills on revenues and expenditures are submitted to see if the state has truly begun the process of reducing its structure or if it is increasing it.

Heberto Castillo, representing the committee promoting the Democratic Revolution Party, criticized the miserable 8-percent raise on the minimum wages and noted that with this decision the government is opening the doors for the people's violence.

President Salinas is now recognizing the pact will not be an emergency measure but rather an institutional one. The pact has been extended 7 months with the same criteria of limiting the workers' salaries. The value of the peso is decreasing relative to the dollar, although the country is fortunate that the exchange rate will only be raised by 200 pesos in a 7-month period. Castillo warned that there have been no significant changes in the terms of the pact, thus the workers have no alternatives. The most regrettable and serious case is the National Commission on Minimum Wages, which offered only a 5-percent increase, but because of the strong reaction, it was possible to obtain an 8-percent raise, which does not reestablish the purchasing power workers had a year ago.

Popular Socialist Party [PPS] Coordinator Deputy Francisco Ortiz Mendoza said he favors the Assembly's direct intervention in this economic and social problem to establish very strict controls on prices and utility fares. The Assembly should be empowered to approve the prices set by the corresponding authorities.

He said he agrees with the pact, but it should be a real pact to help the poor and not the rich, who should be restricted even further. He added that his party has a counterproposal that tries to solve the workers' and the people's problem.

The official pact attempts to solve the situation with an 8-percent raise on minimum wages, while the government has admitted inflation is at 50 percent. This means sinking the Mexican people even further into misery.

Ortiz Mendoza maintained that the workers must again make the first sacrifice. The government's policy openly favors the rich, and the foreign and local investors, who have been the only ones to receive the benefits. Therefore, this PECE is a new aggression against the people and is strongly rejected by left-wing parties.

An official communique issued by the Mexican Socialist Party [PMS] National Executive Committee questions the PECE arguments and agreements because inflation has been artificially reduced: The results of the pact are analyzed based on government-supplied information. The communique points out that the labor force is being sacrificed, the peso exchange rate is working artificially, and the PECE attempts to deceive people through the tariffs and utility fares. The PMS also recognizes that the

economy is at a stalemate; this contradicts the government statements which indicated that the old solidarity pact would not have recessive effects. On the other hand, the PMS National Executive Committee emphasized that the truth about the alleged "satisfactory closing of public finances with a surplus of approximately 8 percent of the Gross Domestic Product" omits analysis of the serious problem the domestic debt represents for the Mexican economy, which is a situation that has become a heavy burden because of the government's policy of high interest rates. This means yielding to the pressure by the business sector's threats of capital flight and the pressure of a devaluation unless such speculation was not guaranteed.

Because of this situation, the PMS noted, the government's deficit is actually 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, which is a figure similar to the worst times of the crisis.

The PMS added that the arguments used in the PECE regarding the balance of payments omits the point that the negative situation in this sector is occurring because the indiscriminate opening in trade promoted by the government causes a 70-percent increase in imports, many of them unessential.

Ricardo Barco, on behalf of the Independent Proletarian Movement (MPI), noted that once again the government leadership, the private sector, and the fake workers' representatives have signed an agreement to continue subduing the working class by preventing a just revision of salaries.

The MPI noted the new pact maintains that the inflation rate has decreased, the monthly average price increases in the past 5 months were kept at 1 percent, and a serious recession has been avoided; however, these figures are biased. The MPI charges that the current regime continues imposing measures that tend to freeze salaries, thus increasing the power of those who are already rich to the detriment of the working class.

The MPI pointed out that the PECE allows the nonpublication of price increases on main staples or diminishes the seriousness of the price increases. The lost purchasing power is unfair and not proportional to the concealed increase in the price of main staples, despite the useless Follow-Up and Evaluation Commission.

Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN] Secretary General Fernando Pineda Menez commented that the new pact shows Carlos Salinas de Gortari has not yet taken over power, rather the power remains in the hands of the group of the 300 headed by Agustin F. Legorreta. "It is a bad way for the Salinas government to begin; it will be reflected in the delay in the plans Salinas announced during his inauguration speech," Pineda maintained.

Pineda added that to lessen the negative effects of this pact on the people's economies it is necessary to grant an emergency salary raise. The workers should exert control on the prices to avoid endless price increases. He also believes the government should establish exchange controls and set the parity to the dollar.

Heberto Castillo emphasized that the only option for Mexicans affected by the pact is to organize in the Democratic Revolution Party, begin coordinated actions against the government's antipopular policies, and establish a democratic and revolutionary power that responds to the Mexican people's legitimate desire for progress and wellbeing.

Police Seize 1,800 Kg of Marijuana in Chihuahua

PA1912134488 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Summary] Mexico's Federal Judicial Police [PFJ] in Chihuahua seized over 1,800 kg of marijuana following a shoot-out with drug traffickers. The drug was reportedly destined for the United States. The PFJ made other drug seizures in northern Baja California and Zacatecas States. A total of 2,000 kg of marijuana were seized in antidrug operations in these three states.

Costa Rica

Foreign Minister Meets With Soviet Official

PA1912035688 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 8-A

[Report by Armando Mayorga]

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has asked the Soviet Union to stop its "disproportionate" shipment of arms to Nicaragua.

He made the request on 2 December to Pulat Khabibullayev, one of the deputy chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at a meeting they held in Mexico City during the inauguration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Madrigal told the Soviet representative that what Costa Rica seeks is to have "perestroyka and glasnost observed in Nicaragua and that no one be subjected to subjugation or restrictions."

Madrigal told LA NACION that Khabibullayev "made no comment" about the request. Madrigal said that "at some other occasion," he will continue the dialogue between the two countries to discuss this and other topics. They also spoke about the possibility of establishing greater trade.

This is the highest level meeting between officials of the two countries during this administration. This is the second time that the Costa Rican Government has asked the USSR to halt the supply of weapons to the region.

President Oscar Arias made the first request in a 7 March letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who did not answer it. Instead, the Soviet ambassador to Costa Rica replied that only if the United States reduces the shipment of military supplies to the region would his country also do so. He also denied that the USSR gives logistical support to the Guatemalan and Salvadoran guerrillas, as Arias believes.

The foreign minister told the Soviet official that his country could contribute to the Central American peace process by "halting or reducing" the shipment of weapons to the Sandinists, "because it really does not contribute to the climate of detente that we must seek."

Concerning this, Madrigal told him that "the best thing small countries like Nicaragua could do is to spend more on education, health, and development, instead of weapons."

Leftists Form 'Patriotic Front' for Elections

PA1912121888 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Dec 88 p 5-A

[Report by Dixie Mendoza]

[Text] During a meeting at the Carlos Duran clinic yesterday, the leftist organizations and other political groups agreed to participate in the coming elections under the name of Patriotic Front [Frente Patriotico].

The meeting started at 1400 and lasted well into the night. The names of the presidential hopefuls had not been disclosed at this newspaper's closing time.

Some of the attendees reported that the new group's convention is scheduled to be held on 11 April.

Representatives of the traditional leftist parties and regional and community groups yesterday voiced their views on a draft proposal that was presented.

The most important points debated included not renegotiating the country's foreign debt, a more specific search for peace, and the need for a clear presentation of the position of the National Liberation and Social Christian Unity Parties.

The meeting was convened by the Democratic Broad Front, the Costa Rican People's Party, and the Popular Vanguard.

The event was opened by university researcher Dr. Daniel Camacho. Former Vice President Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri also took the floor.

Yesterday's discussion centered on a proposal to turn Central America into a zone of peace, security, democratic coexistence, and economic integration; to reform the state and its institutions; and to create a new production model.

Special consideration was given to the foreign debt issue. A confrontation occurred between those who reject any kind of renegotiation with the IMF and AID and those who advocate changing the loan terms.

Some speakers asked that student, community, and union organizations play a more active role in the struggle, because these groups are the most affected by the economic crisis, according to the speakers.

Oil By-Product Sales Increased in 1988

PA1612183988 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] One of the primary activities of RECOPE [Costa Rican Oil Refinery] is to sell oil by-products such as diesel, gasoline, kerosene, bunker oil, several types of marine and aviation fuel, asphalt, and asphaltic emulsions.

The overall sales of RECOPE's products abroad reached 681 million colones in 1987. Sales for the current year are estimated at 750 million colones.

The sale of gasoline to Panama, however, increased in the past few weeks because this country requested additional oil by-products to meet its needs. RECOPE was able to meet Panama's request as a result of the corporation's by-product reserves stored at its reception and distribution centers and as a result of its planned purchases of hydrocarbons.

In Central America, only Costa Rica has eight fuel reception and distribution centers strategicaily located throughout the country. These centers are located at Limon, Turrialba, Cartago, Alajuela, and Puntarenas. Costa Rica also has a national interoceanic network of oil pipelines, all of which guarantee fuel distribution both inside the country and abroad.

El Salvador

FMLN Proposes 'Negotiated' Christmas Truce

PA1912213988 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2045 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 19 December; read by unidentified FMLN member over telephone—live or recorded]

[Text] In the past few days we have learned of the request from various social and religious sectors for a national truce between the FMLN and the Armed Forces during the coming end-of-year festivities. In accordance with this request, the FMLN General Command states the following:

1. It is willing to establish with the Salvadoran Government and the Armed Forces a national truce from 0000 on 23 December 1988 to 2400 on 1 January 1989. We cannot declare a unilateral truce because that has proved to be impractical and ineffective in the past. Therefore, we propose a negotiated truce based on the following:

A. The Armed Forces will promise to halt all land, sea, and air operations and will order the garrisoning of their troops. The FMLN will cease all offensive operations and will gather together its permanent units.

B. If the proposed truce is agreed upon, the Armed Forces command could grant leave to officers and troops so they can visit their families and the FMLN would promise to respect the free movement of Armed Forces personnel throughout the country.

C. Both sides would appoint a delegation to represent them in a meeting to agree upon the truce.

D. The delegations should meet at 1000 on Wednesday, 21 December, or on Thursday, 22 December, in any of the following locations: San Fernando, Chalatenango Department; Perquin, Morazan Department; or Piedra Labrada in San Jose Guayabal Jurisdiction, in Cuscatlan Department.

3. The FMLN will wait for a reply to this proposal until 2400 Wednesday, 21 December. If it does not receive a reply or if the proposal is rejected, the FMLN will maintain its action plans unchanged.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

El Salvador, 19 December 1988

FDR's Guillermo Ungo Discusses Elections

PM1612105488 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Dec 88 p 6

[Report on an interview with FDR Chairman Guillermo Ungo by Jean-Pierre Clerc in Paris on 7 December]

[Text] "The United States and its agents in El Salvador—the Christian Democrats and the military—tend to regard the left as one of those trees that the Japanese call 'bonzai': an ornament whose beauty increases as its size diminishes. And to prevent it from growing larger there must be no hesitation in lopping off a branch from time to time!" Socialist, Chairman of the FDR—the political ally of the FMLN guerrillas—and the left's sole candidate in the March presidential election, Guillermo Ungo did not disdain the use of biting sarcasm to make his point. On a brief visit to Paris for a meeting on Wednesday, 7 December of the council of the Socialist International, of which his party is a member, he told us: "We do not accept this treatment. We have therefore decided to take part in the 19 March 1989 presidential election—certainly not because we believe that it will be conducted properly, still less because we regard it as a solution to the war that is causing a bloodbath in the country, but to gain influence. We believe we must assert our presence, even if the referee is against us."

[Clerc] A recent survey of voting intentions conducted by San Salvador's Jesuit-run Catholic University of Central America granted Democratic Convergence (the grouping of three parties supporting Ungo's candidacy) 6 percent, as against the extreme right-wing ARENA's [Nationalist Republican Alliance] 26 percent, and 21 percent to ruling President Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democrats. Is this a derisory figure?

[Ungo] No, it is a lot, because to declare yourself "left-wing" in El Salvador you have to overcome a mortal fear. Our fight is to win people's minds and hearts fom this fear. Furthermore, 40 percent of people questioned refused to express their preference, whether out of uncertainty or out of justifiable caution, so there could be some surprises. [Ungo ends]

Be that as it may, Ungo said, Democratic Convergence is fighting not "to form a government" but primarily to "achieve peace" through a process of "negotiations" between the two sides in the civil war—a process currently rejected by "the complex of military and political forces that rule El Salvador."

To this end Ungo, a 57-year-old attorney, agreed in 1987 to return to the country after 6 years in exile and to live there "a guarded life, with no family circle, constantly guarded and escorted" by trusted men.

[Clerc] So what is the explanation for this candidacy, since the "allied" FMLN refuses to participate in the election? Is it tactical?

[Ungo] No. We have our agreements, including our belief that the war being waged by the front is not illegitimate. We have our disagreements also,for instance, precisely over our attitude to the 19 March election. The FMLN heeds us closely. It respects our decisions.

[Clerc] Does this mean that the election will be peaceful?

[Ungo] Not necessarily. War actions have their own requirements. The guerrillas are gaining ground. They are now in the cities, and in El Salvador in particular. The 1 November attack and the semi-destruction of the National Guard headquarters in the center of the capital was an impressive display of the high military level attained by the front.

[Clerc] What is the Christian Democrats' current status?

[Ungo] Their splits have killed them politically even before Duarte's clinical death.

[Clerc] What about Alfredo Cristiani, ARENA candidate and favorite in the 19 March election?

[Ungo] He is the acceptable face of the far right. A 39-year-old graduate of America's Georgetown University, he is serious and sober and presents himself well. Nevertheless, he represents the oligarchy of El Salvador's agricultural exporters in his capacity as a member of one of the country's most prominent families. The one pulling the strings behind him is still Major d'Aubuisson—populist and charismatic, if you like, but fanatical and violent: a reactionary."

With some 70,000 deaths already recorded out of a population of 5 million, El Salvador's civil war, which is resuming with a vengeance, threatens to be one of the major holocausts of the half-century.

Guerrillas Claim 'Execution' of 'Traitor'

PA2012035088 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Dec 88 pp 3, 77

[Unattributed report]

[Text] (Santa Ana)—[FMLN] urban guerrillas operating in Santa Ana have claimed responsibility for the murder of Rosa Imelda Gonzalez Medrano, a professor at the western campus of the National University.

The guerrillas stated that the dead woman was active within the ranks of the FMLN and that her alias was "Marianela." They added that her death was a "revolutionary execution" because she was considered a traitor to the organization.

Gonzalez Medrano was killed on the night of 16 December, on 13th Avenue South, 11th Street East in the San Rafael neighborhood, when she was returning from a demonstration sponsored by the National University, San Salvador campus.

The Third Justice of the Peace ordered the removal of the body from the scene and its release to the family. At the time of her death, Gonzalez Medrano was head of the Law Department. In the past she held the office of Attorney General of the Poor [Procuradora General de Pobres].

FMLN Battle Reports for 7-14 Dec Broadcast

PA1612222088 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 15 December broadcasts 10 minutes of "military activity" reports for the period 7-14 December, which include battles, ambushes, and sabotage actions. The first report is from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front at Suchitoto and details a 14 December "successful FMLN ambush of a military truck carrying artillery troops on the road from Suchitoto to San Martin, at the 24 km road marker." The report adds that for the ambush, "two powerful Manuel Jose Arce mines were used, totally destroying the truck and leaving 19 troops either dead or injured." The report goes on to say that "at 0830 on 14 December, artillery troops detonated a booby trap that our units had placed at the ambush site, inflicting 3 more casualties, making a total of 22 casualties in 1 day of fighting in the Cinquera area, Cabanas Department."

The second report is from the Feliciano Ama Eastern Front and covers an ambush on 7 December. The report says that "a military convoy transporting cavalry units was ambushed using two Manuel Jose Arce mines on the expressway that leads from San Salvador to Santa Ana, at the 55 km road marker, El Congo Jurisdiction. Six troops were killed and six were injured. The truck was totally destroyed."

The third report says that on 13 December "FMLN units ambushed two trucks carrying 5th Infantry Brigade troops, traveling from east to west on the Pan-American Highway, at El Sitio village, Apastepeque Jurisdiction, San Vincente Department. Our units set off three powerful Manuel Jose Arce mines—the terror of our enemies—inflicting nine casualties: three dead and six wounded. The troops in the second vehicle started shooting crazily. Our units withdrew unhindered."

The fourth report covers information received from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, stating that "on 12 December, one technician was killed and one soldier was seriously injured while placing a mine on the road from Ilobasco to San Rafael, at the 51 km road marker, at Cabanas Department. Both belonged to Military Detachment No 2."

The fifth report covers a 10 December attack on a farm in Berlin, Usulutan Department, where "one enemy soldier" was killed.

The sixth report says that "on 12 December, FMLN guerrilla units clashed with troops belonging to Military Detachment No 2 at Quesera Canton, Ilobasco Jurisdiction, Cabanas Department, seriously injuring three puppet Army troops."

The seventh report tells of an FMLN ambush at 1600 on 13 December, in which rifle fire was used against a parked military pick-up truck carrying 25 soldiers near the Canas River. The pick-up had been traveling from Sentuntepeque to Ilobasco and was attacked when it stopped. Seven casualties were reported.

The eighth report covers sabotage activities against the electrical system in San Nicolas, Apopa Jurisdiction, in which an electric tower was destroyed.

The ninth report says that "at 0700 on 14 December, an FMLN sniper inflicted one casualty on a 5th Infantry Brigade patrol at San Nicolas, San Vicente. The enemy then withdrew."

The last report covers an 8 December incident in which an antitank mine was detonated under a railroad engine traveling east from San Salvador, at Dos Quebradas, San Vicente Jurisdiction. "The mine exploded only 80 meters from an enemy position and the engine was destroyed. Propaganda was also distributed."

Army Reports 5 Rebel Casualties in Clashes

PA2012001688 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Military sources have reported that a civilian was killed and five civilians and two soldiers wounded in guerrilla attacks during the past few hours in Tejutla and La Palma, Chalatenango Department. A spokesman for the 4th Infantry Brigade, stationed in El Paraiso and Chalatenango Departments, reported that three FMLN rebels also were killed during these clashes.

According to military sources, two more rebels were killed this morning during guerrilla harassment attacks on the Bracamonte Battalion near Perquin, Morazan Department.

Guatemala

* Reportage on Widespread Criminal Violence

* Guatemala Worst Affected

32480039D Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p 8

[Article by Raul Meono Rodriguez]

[Text] The Department of Guatemala leads the nation in violent deaths over the past 4 months, in the number of people wounded for various reasons, and the incidence of other criminal acts such as assaults, robberies, and traffic accidents.

The second most violent department in the country is Jutiapa, according to statistics compiled by the National Police. The above results come from analyses of these figures.

In the Department of Guatemala, 192 people were shot to death in the last 4 months, at a rate of 48 per month.

This department is followed by Jutiapa, with 104 deaths involving firearms, for an average of 26 murders per month. Next are Peten, with 56, and Izabal, with 54 murders in the last 4 months.

In addition, the departments with the lowest number of murders are Chimaltenango and Totonicapan, with 3 and 4 deaths in the last 4 months. This shows that violence has declined in the former department, compared to the situation early in this decade.

As for the number of stabbing deaths, Guatemala also heads the list, with 64. It is followed by Peten, with 31; Izabal and Jutiapa, with 28; Suchitepequez, with 27; and Jutiapa [as published] and Chiquimula, with 25.

These statistics indicate that Jutiapa was the most violent department in the last 4 months when deaths by shooting and stabbing are combined, while Chimaltenango and Totonicapan have been the most peaceful during this period.

In short, Guatemala Department is at the top of the list of departments with the most deaths in the last 4 months, including not only the violent deaths mentioned above but also those resulting from occupational injuries

and traffic accidents, and bodies found strangled, buried, drowned, burned, putrefied, as skeletons, mired in mud, or in other conditions. The total number of deaths was 1,638.

In this category, Guatemala is followed by Escuintla, with 233 deaths from various causes; Jutiapa, with 193; Quetzaltenango, with 179; and Peten, with 175.

The total number of deaths from different causes throughout the republic was 4,163 during the 4-month period, for an average of 1,040 deaths per month. The number of people wounded or injured in different ways throughout the nation was 2,611 during that time.

As for other national statistics, 11,025 incidents were reported, including assaults, traffic accidents, burglaries, fires, missing persons, vehicle thefts, and recovered automobiles.

In Guatemala Department alone, 980 burglaries were reported in July, August, September, and October, as well as 232 armed robberies, 31 fires, and 1,281 stolen vehicles.

In the latter category, the National Police have managed to recover 667 vehicles, which means that half of those stolen have disappeared.

This is a brief synthesis of what has happened in Guatemala in the last few months with respect to various crimes and accidents.

* 'Crime Rampage' Detailed

32480039D Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p 11

[Commentary by Alvaro Contreras Velez in the "Cacto" column: "Raging Violence"]

[Text] The crime rampage that has been unleashed throughout the country in recent months has reached extremes comparable only to those of the government of General Lucas Garcia, mainly in 1978 and 1979. This time, both political and common crimes have been committed with impunity against men, women, and children of all political creeds and at every economic and social level.

To illustrate this situation of danger, defenselessness, and terror, in which there is no hope of change or improvement, I will cite the fact that in just 7 days between Sunday the 2nd and Saturday the 8th of this month, 102 criminal incidents were recorded, as follows: 44 murders, 26 injuries, 16 kidnappings or disappearances, and 16 robberies and assaults. Average: 14 crimes per day.

Facts. Ominous, horrendous facts. Not speculation or yellow journalism. The evidence, based only on what has been reported in the written press, with comments on the most highly publicized and repudiated cases, appears below:

Sunday, 2 October: 1. One soldier killed and seven wounded when a Claymore mine planted by the guerrillas exploded. 2. Man shot to death in Escuintla. 3. A 65-year-old woman raped and murdered in San Miguel Chicaj. 4. Peasant gunned down in Pasaco. 5. Farmer hacked to death with machetes in Chiquimula. 6. Two people shot and wounded, and three assaults and robberies in various parts of the country. 7. Three people disappeared.

Monday, 3 October: 1. Rogelio Cruz, leader of longshoremen in Puerto Quetzal, wounded by gunfire. 2. In Escuintla, a man was stabbed and strangled when robbed of three chickens. 3. In Jutiapa, the owner of a farm was shot to death in his home. 4. Truckload of sugar highjacked. 5. Residence robbed in Zone 9.

Tuesday, 4 October: 1. Near San Benito, Peten, the bodies of nine people were found after they were killed while riding in a pick-up. This crime, the worst reported this year, was unofficially attributed to alleged death squads. 2. Teenager shot to death in the capital. 3. Seven bodies of murder victims found throughout the country.

Wednesday, 5 October: 1. Francisco Landaverry G., mayor of Quezaltepeque, Chiquimula, gunned down in what was described as a political crime. 2. In Oratorio, Santa Rosa, the body of a young man was found after he was apparently murdered. 3. Shootings in Esquipulas and Mixco left four people wounded. 4. In Villanueva, seven people traveling in a truck were kidnapped. 5. Former Deputy Francisco Castellanos L. declared to the press that "terror is spreading in Peten. Not a day goes by without a crime being committed."

Thursday, 6 October: 1. In Ciudad Flores, Peten, four bodies were found shot and decapitated. 2. Businessman murdered in Ixhuatan. 3. Young man murdered in Chiquimulilla. 4. Female restaurant owner seriously wounded by gunshot. 5. Explosion of a grenade in Zone 2 of this city injured two women. 6. Report of a peasant who disappeared.

Friday, 7 October: 1. Bodies of two murder victims found at kilometer 131 of the Pacific Highway. 2. Assault and robbery at a dwelling in Zapotitlan. 3. Reports of five shootings or stabbings.

Saturday, 8 October: 1. A man was riddled with bullets and hanged from a tree. 2. Young salesman gunned down in this city. 3. Young man murdered on the highway between Livingston and Peten. 4. Article in PRENSA LIBRE says "USAC [Autonomous University of San Carlos] faculty and students worried about wave of

violence on campus, where drug addicts and criminals are springing up all over, operating with impunity. Several students have been attacked or murdered."

Cacto: This is not a product of rumors or gossip, either; these are proven facts.

Honduras

Peace Corps Office Bombed; No Casualties

PA1912163188 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report by Federico Lance from the local headquarters of the U.S. Peace Corps in Tegucigalpa on 19 December—recorded]

[Text] We are right across the street from the U.S. Peace Corps building, where a bomb went off this morning.

Various U.S. Peace Corps officials and the U.S. Embassy spokesman are here now. The local authorities are conducting an investigation of the incident.

We went up to the third floor of a building right across the street from the U.S. Peace Corps building along with Mr Orlando Sierra [another reporter] and colleagues from various Tegucigalpa papers, and we can confirm that the building was heavily damaged. Orlando, what can you tell us about this incident?

[Begin Sierra recording] Federico, the bomb squad is now leaving the premises. They could perhaps give us additional information about what really happened there, because the truth is that we only saw that the back part of the second floor was completely destroyed. According to a security guard, the roof was blown into the air. That is what we know. [end recording]

Let us see what our colleague Sosa can tell us:

[Begin Sosa recording] Good morning. We know what our colleague Orlando just said. The front part of the building is practically completely destroyed. We believe in a few minutes we will have a chance to broadcast video footage of this incident that took place early this morning. [end recording]

Well, this is what we can tell you for the time being. We are waiting for the official reports of the local authorities and the U.S. Embassy spokesman about the explosion of a bomb that went off at about 0330 this morning [0930 GMT] at the headquarters of the U.S. Peace Corps. The explosion caused significant property damage, but no one was injured.

Guerrilla Group Claims Attack

PA1912211388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1945 GMT 19 Dec 88

["Exclusive" telephone report by unidentified Tegucigalpa Radio America reporter for Radio Sandino from Tegucigalpa—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] From Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Radio America's press department reports an attack this morning in Honduras against the Peace Corps. Radio America has learned that a powerful bomb exploded at dawn today at the headquarters of the U.S. Peace Corps located northeast of Tegucigalpa.

Private security guards in the area said that the bomb was thrown at the second floor of the building at 0330 by three men who got out of a green Toyota. U.S. Embassy security guards and Honduran police cordoned off the building and blocked reporters' access to it.

Although we have not been able to ascertain the extent of the damage, the guards said that it is significant but that there were no casualties.

The windows of the U.S. PALIC [Pan-American Life Insurance Company], which is adjacent to the Peace Corps building, were shattered. Seven years ago a powerful bomb exploded in this same three-story building, which also houses diplomatic offices, destroying part of (?an office).

At 1200, Radio America's press department received an exclusive phone call from the 7 April Martyrs Command of the Morazanist Patriotic Front, which claimed responsibility for this attack and described it as a protest against the presence of U.S. troops in the country.

It is the first time that this group has claimed responsibility for this kind of attack. Before now, we were only aware of the existence of the Morazanist Front for the Liberation of Honduras, FMLH. [passage omitted]

President, Armed Forces Head Meet Adm Crowe

PA1612130888 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] U.S. President-elect George Bush will give priority to Central America, particularly to Honduras, Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, reported today in Tegucigalpa.

The high-ranking U.S. officer arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday as part of a tour through Central America, excluding Nicaragua. He told the media that Bush will work with the Central American democracies to give a repby to the challenge presented by Nicaragua. Yesterday Crowe met first with General Humberto Regalado

Hernandez, Honduran Armed Forces commander, and then with President Jose Azcona Hoyo. Today he met with representatives of political parties and other Honduran notables.

Gen Regalado Views Relations With Nicaragua

PA1912003988 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1610 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Interview with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Armed Forces, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Regalado] ...the Nicaraguan leaders have said they are willing to turn over the government but not power. With that way of thinking, I think it is extremely difficult for Nicaragua to be democratized. As a result, the solution lies with the Sandinist government.

Sometimes one has to explain, particularly in the United States, that there is no war in either Costa Rica or Honduras. We have peace here. Sometimes first-time visitors to Honduras are surprised that you can go anywhere and that we live peacefully. The domestic situation in other countries is different. I think it should be publicized that Honduras has peace and that our society is not divided. We have our own problems—and we have to make joint efforts to solve them—but, thank God, we do not yet have guerrillas, and we have not begun to kill each other.

[Reporter] What is the obstacle to peace [words indistinct]?

[Regalado] I think it is the Nicaraguan Government's goodwill. Everything revolves around that. I do not know why some presidents who have the responsibility of saying where the bottleneck lies do not say this. It seems they are timid [words indistinct]. We armed forces commanders of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras met to make some evaluations and analyses of Esquipulas II, and the solution is simple: Nicaragua must be democratized. That is the conclusion we reached.

[Reporter] The democratization of Nicaragua is included in the Esquipulas plan. Why has this not been done?

[Regalado] I do not know. It seems the Central American presidents have decided not to exert political pressure. Instead, what the plan has done is divert the attention of the democratically elected presidents who have been trying to solve their own domestic problems. As you know, there are countries that are at war, and their main concern is to solve their own problems, not those of Central America as a whole.

[Reporter] Nicaragua charges that Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are cooperating with the United States so that peace will not come to Central America.

[Regalado] I do not know [words indistinct] the view of the communists and not the democrats' view [words indistinct]. Honduras has been internationally criticized for being an ally and friend of the United States. I think we either belong to one devil or to another. Honduras has said Nicaragua should take in the counterrevolutionaries and the Nicaraguan refugees. If that were to happen, Honduras would not be criticized by any country.

[Reporter] What happened to the [words indistinct] to neutralize both the contras and Nicaragua? Do you support this?

[Regalado] Yes, of course; I understand that the Foreign Ministry is working in that direction. It has been favorably viewed by the Central American presidents. The Armed Forces have also expressed support for an inter-American peace force. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What are the latest decisions of the Honduran Armed Forces regarding the helicopter flown from Nicaragua by an alleged deserter? Will the helicopter be returned? What will be the fate of the pilot?

[Regalado] The Nicaraguan Embassy has paid some journalists to try to obtain information from the Honduran authorities, but I can tell you that the Foreign Ministry and the Honduran Armed Forces are doing their work. Of course, we still remember the Honduran helicopter that Nicaragua shot down over the Gulf of Fonseca, killing eight Armed Forces members who had been inspecting the Amapala Island military installations. The Nicaraguans decorated the person who downed that unarmed helicopter. The Nicaraguans later kidnapped two Honduran soldiers on our border, and they took 8 months to return two measly M-16 rifles. Our Navy has also reported that the Nicaraguans seized boats from poor fishermen. The Nicaraguans promised to return the boats after fines of up to $50,000 were paid, but then they kept the fines and have not returned the boats. The military is taking all this under consideration. [passage omitted]

Presidential Adviser on COHEP Criticism

PA1612115688 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Interview with Presidential Adviser Carlos Falck by Gustavo R. Rubi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rubi] Did President Azcona meet today with his lawyers to deal with the confrontation he is having with the private enterprise sector?

[Falck] I do not believe there is a confrontation with the private enterprise sector. What I think is that there is a COHEP [Honduran Council for Private Enterprise] communique in which a number of statements were made that naturally affect the Honduran president's

ability to govern this country. By saying that there is a power vacuum, it seems to me that COHEP has completely transcended the bounds of an organization of its kind.

[Rubi] It seems that those accusations are being examined to see if they constitute a crime?

[Falck] You have already heard the statements by [Honduran Presidential Adviser Armando] Blanco, whom the President has instructed to study the matter to determine if a crime has been committed as a result of this incident. However, I believe the most important thing to do is to analyze whether COHEP is right in saying that President Azcona is a weak president and that a power vacuum exists. I personally do not believe a situation of this nature exists. The problem is that we still cannot get used to living in a democracy.

We are longing for times past and waiting for a man sent by providence, who, with his voice and words, will impose order and even set guidelines against Honduran laws.

Since President Azcona assumed the presidency, he has proved his responsibility and respect for the branches of state. He has expressed absolute respect for the independence of the three branches. In addition, President Azcona opened up to and listened to the various sectors. He has not only listened to the private sector, with which he has met on many occasions, but also with labor and peasant groups.

As we have repeatedly said, the problem is that we are experiencing difficult times, and it seems there are people who seek a man from providence and refuse to realize that the duty of leading this country out of the crisis is not the task of one single man or group of men. It is a task involving all Hondurans. We all are obligated to make our small contributions. We all are obligated to struggle to move our country forward. Both the people and their leaders have the task of moving Honduras forward. [passage omitted]

[Rubi] It seems to me that COHEP wanted to express constructive criticism and get the president thinking?

[Falck] Perhaps. I know most COHEP members. I think they were trying to issue constructive criticism. Some of them feel the president reacted as he did because of their criticism of the national budget. I want to clarify that that is not the reason. The president reacted as he did because of what COHEP members said at the beginning. Perhaps the COHEP members are right about the budget. Many things have been changed in the budget, and the National Congress has practically approved it.

President Azcona is not upset at the criticism of the budget. He is upset because of what they said at the beginning about the enormous crisis, the power vacuum, and the president's lack of authority. Sometimes we must be careful about the words we use because, as it is commonly said: The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Nicaragua

Opposition Leaders Back Democratic Guarantees

PA1912022288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2149 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Managua, 18 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Fourteen opposition parties and four non-Sandinist labor unions today reaffirmed their determination to remain united in the struggle for democratic guarantees that will allow Nicaraguans to freely elect their leaders and representatives.

Political observers consider next year to be a "precampaign" year, since municipal, legislative, and presidential elections will be held in Nicaragua in 1990.

Top- and mid-level leaders of the "Group of 14" and the Permanent Workers Congress (CPT) held a rally here today to celebrate the first anniversary of the formation of the opposition bloc.

The 14 parties, whose leaders have different ideologies, programs, and principles, represent five major political trends in Nicaragua: the liberal, socialist, conservative, Social Christian, and social democratic ideologies.

The "Group of 14" was launched in October 1987, when the national dialogue between the government and the opposition began within the framework of the Esquipulas II peace plan.

There were no incidents during the rally, but opposition leaders protested police surveillance of the event. Eighteen speakers participated in the political rally. Although no specific proposal was made to the government, most of the speakers emphasized that the coalition of parties and labor unions remains united, despite Sandinist predictions that it would break up.

Erick Ramirez, a Social Christian leader, expressed the need to refrain from playing games of "collaboration" with the FSLN, because the aim is to "save the country from the hell into which it is presently sunk."

Mauricio Diaz, another Social Christian leader, said that to save Nicaragua from war and misery and achieve reconciliation it is urgent that "a true anti-Sandinist front be formed."

Some speakers said the Esquipulas II Central American peace plan is still valid because Nicaragua's major national problems have not been solved; therefore, they said, it is appropriate to continue demanding compliance with those commitments.

"Esquipulas II does not establish penalties for those who fail to comply with the commitments. This is correct, because it is up to the Nicaraguan people to punish the Sandinists for noncompliance with the accord. They should do this by defeating the Sandinists in free elections," said Roberto Moreno, a communist labor leader.

In addition, Alejandro Solorzano, a socialist labor leader, expressed the need to prepare a political platform and a new government program to "bring Nicaragua out of its present state of disaster and end the war."

Other opposition leaders demanded that the FSLN hold a "serious" national dialogue in January to set a timetable for democratic reforms that will culminate in guarantees for the 1990 presidential elections.

Vow To Continue Unity

PA2012012288 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report on a ceremony held by opposition parties marking the first anniversary of the union of 14 Nicaraguan opposition parties and groups at the Dorado Theater in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Workers constitute the fundamental nucleus of Nicaraguan society, Roberto Moreno, leader of CAUS [Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity], said during a ceremony at the Dorado Theater. Roberto Moreno added that workers will actively participate in politics to defend their rights. Some say workers should not participate in politics, but they are wrong. We are entitled and willing to, Moreno noted.

Something extraordinary will have to happen in Nicaragua for Nicaraguans to win liberty and democracy, said Miriam Arguello, secretary general of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, adding that Nicaragua needs a republican political system with social justice.

[Begin Arguello recording] Exactly 1 year ago we came to this same place, trusting that the Sandinist government would comply with its Esquipulas II commitments. We were politically committed to discussions on the problems facing our country. Unfortunately, the government's lack of commitment put an end to national dialogue. However, looking on the bright side, 14 opposition political parties met at that time. From the start, we never felt like strangers.

Since extraordinary things always happen in Nicaragua, we believe an extraordinary thing will have to happen here to restore our freedom. That was how these 14 organizations met and came to understand each other. Now, we have reached full agreement on the problems of Nicaragua. We agree on the need to forge a Nicaraguan ideal, which has to be expressed in our Constitution. That is the origin of the unity of the 14 political parties that met here in October [as heard] 1987 with our individual hopes. Our individual hopes turned into a common hope. The Sandinist goverment frustrated that hope.

Nicaraguan patriotism prevailed over those 14 organizations. Once the national dialogue broke down because of the Sandinist government, these 14 organizations remained united behind a single ideal, because they were aware of their historic mission in Nicaragua. We have continued our analysis, thinking of our fatherland. We are all here together, without thinking of our own ideologies. One thought alone prevails in our minds: Nicaragua.

That thought [applause] must lead us to the end. All Nicaraguans must follow that ideal. Nicaraguans alone must solve their own country's problems. [end recording]

Alejandro Solarzano, leader of the CGTI [General Confederation of Independent Workers], said workers must discuss the government plans. Alvin Guthrie, secretary general of the Confederation of Trade Union Unity, CUS, said workers must struggle for labor freedom in Nicaragua. Power must not be used for self-enrichment, the labor leader said. Leaders of the Permanent Workers' Congress [Congreso Permanent de los Trabajores] participated prominently in Sunday's political event.

Antonio Jarquin, secretary general of the autonomous CTN [Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers] said that before the meeting of Central American presidents, the Nicaraguan opposition must analyze the situation here to report on the crisis the country is facing. He added:

[Begin Jarquin recording] We are celebrating [passage indistinct] the white and blue flag, our flag. The interests of the people and the nation are above our groups' own interests. [applause] [passage indistinct] [end recording]

French Food Donations for Hurricane Victims

PA1912145188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Summary] French Ambassador to Nicaragua Lauren Rapae yesterday delivered 170 tons of food donated by the French Government and by various French nongovernmental organizations to the Nicaraguan authorities to assist hurricane victims.

The donation arrived at El Bluff Port yesterday aboard the French Navy warship "Francis Garnier," which left Martinique last Tuesday.

The 170 tons of food are the first part of a total delivery of 600 tons of food which will arrive in Nicaragua early in 1989.

Cordoba Devaluation on Parallel Market Continues

PA1912000988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1454 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua's currency, the cordoba, was devalued by 11 percent on the legal parallel market today, continuing its rapid decline. With this fourth devaluation on the parallel market so far this month the dollar is bought at 5,000 cordobas (up from 4,500) and sold at 5,200 cordobas (up from 4,725).

The official cordoba-dollar exchange rate, set by the government in November, was not changed. It remains at 920 cordobas to the dollar. [passage omitted]

Panama

Costa Rican Border Protest Note Received

PA2012002988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2344 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report on statements by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has announced that a protest note from the Costa Rican Government was received on Saturday. In the note the Costa Rican Government protests the abnormal situation along the border with Panama:

[Begin Ritter recording] I received the Costa Rican Government's protest note on Saturday. We will be answering their note today after we have received a report from the Defense Forces in Chiriqui Province. In the note, and as discussed earlier at the United Nations, the Costa Rican foreign minister recalled the need to appoint commissions to negotiate an agreement and to find an overall solution to the border problems. The commissions would be made up of representatives of the Costa Rican Interior Ministry and the Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry. I support the suggestion and we will proceed immediately to the appointment of the commissions. [end recording]

Ritter on Normalizing Relations With U.S.

PA2012003188 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2331 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Statement by Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Through the president and me, Panama has reiterated that it is willing to normalize relations with the United States as long as these relations are based on respect for our dignity and self-determination. Panama has always been willing to sit down and talk with the United States on this basis. A dialogue with U.S. officials greatly depends on the United States. The United States has been the one that has refused to have anything to do with the Panamanian Government. It is therefore not up to us to seek this rapprochement. We are and have always been willing—and I said this when I was appointed foreign minister—to normalize relations with the United States as long as this normalization is done within a framework of respect for international law and based on the respect that one sovereign, independent country deserves from another.

U.S. Embassy Sponsoring 'Conspiracies'

PA2012014888 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Dec 88 p 14

["Hard Line" column by Alberto Barrera: "The Failure of Putschists and Traitors"]

[Text] Despite the all-out efforts of seditious and treasonous individuals to tarnish the elections, they will be held on 7 May 1989 because the people are demanding it.

The putschists have spent days, weeks, and years in conspiracies to keep the community uneasy and to disturb constitutional order through the establishment of a "constituent assembly."

All these campaigns are sponsored through the U.S. Embassy by Ambassador Arthur Davis and [Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto.

What weapons are being used by these seditious individuals to achieve their objectives?

1. The use of sophisms and slanders against the hierarchy of the Panama Defense Forces, especially General Manuel Antonio Noriega and his staff, to incite the people to repudiate our armed institution.

2. The creation of Modelo [Local Democratic Movement], which was inspired by the Namfrel [National Citizens Movement for Free Elections] group that toppled Ferdinand Marcos, with the support of the Reagan administation, which will soon expire.

3. Political groups that had opposed Hugo Spadafora, including Ricardo Arias Calderon, Guillermo Cochez, and other Christian Democratic Party members, who took advantage of Spadafora's death to disseminate all kinds of lies to destroy government institutions and disturb order in the country. However, all these lies collapsed because they were based on pretense and dishonor.

4. With the economic support of the Reagan administration, they organized disinformation campaigns abroad against Panama and its government using the newspapers THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE BOSTON GLOBE, and THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

5. The suspension of IMF and U.S. Government aid to Panama.

6. The old tricks of John Maisto in association with opposition groups in Panama. Maisto was sent here by the Reagan administration as deputy chief of the mission headed by Ambassador Davis after a blow had been dealt in the Philippines.

7. The vicious psychological war unleashed by John Poindexter against Panama in the face of the upright, honest, and patriotic position taken by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

8. The putschist plots of Roberto Diaz Herrera in collusion with opposition groups that had previously opposed him.

9. The campaign of white handkerchief waving, pot and pan banging, and BMW horn blowing financed by Gabriel Lewis Galindo in association with U.S. congressmen and senators and the Civic Crusade.

10. The drug-trafficking and money-laundering campaign that backfired on the opposition when the Steven Sandro Samos case was revealed.

All these plans failed in the face of a people who will not be deceived by national traitors and who are unanimously united to the Defense Forces.

Immunity of U.S. Embassy Officials Denied

PA2012012488 [Editorial Report] Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 19 December on its front page carries the photographs of U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis, Susan Davis [daughter of Ambassador Davis], John Maisto [deputy chief of mission], Terrence Kneebone [public affairs officer], and David Miller [former U.S. Embassy economic counselor]. The caption reads: "Information for the Panamanian People. They are non gratae. These people have no diplomatic status in our country because they are personae non gratae; therefore, they do not enjoy diplomatic privileges or immunity."

Minister Rognoni on Noriega Candidacy, Bush

PA1712141188 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Dec 88 pp A-1, C-8

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni has said that General Manuel A. Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], has filled a leadership void, which, "from the viewpoint of those who support the government, makes him the most popular candidate."

Rognoni, a well-known political strategist and prominent leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), said Noriega has not only excelled in his military career but also as a statesman with vast experience in handling the country's political problems and in leading the nationalist and anti-imperialist struggles.

Rognoni pointed out: "I believe Noriega did not decide to fill that leadership void; it was forced upon him because he had a sense of political strategy, a stage presence, familiarity with disinformation tactics, and the knowledge that the grand juries that were used to intimidate him have only relative importance and that such tactics have proven inefficient throughout history."

Reiterating statements he made last weekend on the "On the 7th Day" program hosted by newsman Luis Manuel Martinez, the minister said that "undoubtedly, the U.S. attacks forced Gen Noriega to go beyond his military role so he could protect himself."

He added that "Gen Noriega is a truly dedicated military man who is sure about his career and loves his profession. He has now gone beyond his military role, and he has made a good political debut. Today Noriega enjoys not only widespread local support but even international support in his struggle for the Panamanian cause."

As for the possibility that the high-ranking military officer will overcome the obstacles on the path between A Avenue [location of FDP Headquarters] to the Presidential Palace, Rognoni said: "In my opinion, Noriega knows how to handle both military intelligence and politics. In this regard, I believe the U.S. aggression and the devotion of all those who have worked with him have been his best training. Nothing has come easily to him."

Rognoni added that those who believe George Bush will be a mere continuation of Reagan as U.S. President are wrong because they know neither Bush nor the United States. Rognoni said Bush has his own system and has reached the presidency thanks to his experience; he will lead with his own team—that is, a well-chosen cabinet made up of people with ample international experience who know about Third World problems.

"These people will ensure that Bush will not be the continuation of Reagan and that we will enter the Bush era. Bush's success or failure will depend on himself and the way he handles the issues. Whether we are going to benefit will to a great extent depend on the interest he shows in doing justice by a country that has been unjustly persecuted because of the petulance of two people in the United States," Rognoni added.

Discusses Economic Adjustments

PA1612183688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Minister of Commerce and Industries Mario Rognoni was asked about the possiblity of cutting public employees' salaries to enable the government to confront the serious economic situation. He said the following:

[Begin recording] The truth is that the government has kept the country's economy afloat up to now. With very little delay we have managed to pay employees' salaries this year. We have not fired or reduced personnel, except

for sinecures, persons collecting two salaries, and retired personnel that continued to work. We have given private enterprises time to make adjustments. They have made these adjustments by reducing working hours, payrolls, and positions or by reaching agreements with their personnel. Evidently, private enterprises will now have to increase the government's income by paying their taxes now that it is possible to get back on their feet. The government, of course, will have to make necessary adjustments based on its income situation. The government is aware of the situation and will require input from the political parties' executive committees and grassroots groups, as well as negotiations with the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees to reach the proper adjustments that will least damage the public employee.

[Reporter] There have been rumors that the government will try to maintain the status quo until after the election, when massive layoffs are likely. What are your comments?

[Rognoni] I believe it would be totally irresponsible and incompatible with the responsibility shown by President Solis Palma to think only in terms of elections and not in terms of what is good for the fatherland. The government's commitment is to uphold national integrity, defend sovereignty, and maintain our nation's identity. Adjustments that may be necessary at a given time do not necessarily imply massive layoffs but would imply a reduction in the area of government expenses. However, we would be very irresponsible if we did not take the measures required by the country and acted only in terms of elections. [end recording]

Backs Trade With USSR

PA1612120388 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 pp 1, 11

[By Ruben Dario Diaz C.]

[Text] "The positive development of our trade relations with Cuba should serve as a motivation for us to establish commercial relations with the Soviet Union as well," Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni has stated.

According to Minister Rognoni, Panama has always believed in establishing bilateral commercial relations with all countries interested in having those types of relations "with us," because they provide new technological resources, supply new products, and create new markets for Panamanian products.

He said Panamanians have always shied away from mixing political and economic activities, so relations must be established in a framework of utmost respect, without any kind of intervention in Panama's political affairs.

Columnist Urges Closure of Cadena Exitosa

PA1612193288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 4

["The Lancer" column by Mustafa: "Antinationalist Campaign"]

[Text] The radio network Cadena Exitosa, which is run by the criminal Aristides de Icaza, is systematically carrying out an antinationalist and proimperialist campaign with the knowledge and tolerance of the Government Ministry's Media Directorate.

Evidence of this are recordings of this radio network's morning programs, including this morning's program in which the network defends the U.S. decision to violate the Torrijos-Carter treaties and to shame the dignity of all Panamanians by appointing an American to the position of Panama Canal Commission Public Relations Director when that position belongs, on the basis of the treaties, to a Panamanian.

What kind of government officals do we have? They permit criminals like Aris de Icaza to poison the Panamanian people with proimperialist propaganda from the worms [Cuban exiles] that he has imported from Miami.

How long, [Media Director] Osvaldo Gudino, will we have to stand attacks on a patriotic people's dignity and a distortion of history?

Why is the Government Ministry's Media Directorate afraid of the criminal Aris de Icaza?

In case you have forgotten, the state owns all the frequencies. The state therefore has the right to cancel any frequency that is used to endanger the state's security. Cadena Exitosa endangers the state's security every day when it condemns the nationalist efforts that are bolstering sovereignty throughout the country. By doing so, De Icaza is poisoning our young people and distorting our students' view of history.

Cadena Exitosa's frequencies were canceled once because of the attacks that were made through them against the state's security. This can be done again for the same reason. People who like beatings go out of their way to get them, as the saying goes. If De Icaza later wants to say he is suffering political persecution, let him. After all, he has said worse things about this government, and we are still here. Take note, Gudino.

Republican Party Denies New Political Alliance

PA1612191088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Dec 88 p 1

["Communique to the Country" issued in Panama City by the Republican Party Board of Directors on 14 December 1988]

[Text] The Republican Party advises the national community and members that thus far it has not engaged in any new political alliance with other political parties. Therefore, it is still part of the National Democratic Union (UNADE) until the party national convention, which is the organization charged with making that decision, decides to form a new alliance.

Panama, 14 December 1988 Republican Party Board of Directors

Argentina

Alfonsin Returns From Peru Plant Inauguration

PY2012023488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0142 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin tonight returned from Peru, where along with President Alan Garcia, he inaugurated a nuclear plant in Huarangal, 42 km north of Lima, which was built with Argentine technology.

Upon his arrival at Ezeiza International Airport a few minutes before 2300, Alfonsin said: We are very pleased with the results of our trip because we were able to emphasize South-South cooperation, Latin American integration, and the friendship uniting Peru and Argentina. [passage omitted]

Government Considering Replacement for Caridi

PY1912205388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1948 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (DYN)—Reliable sources have reported that the Argentine Government was studying today, at the highest level, the replacement of General Jose Dante Caridi as Army chief of staff. This would be the fifth change in this position since the constitutional government took office.

Caridi is determined to announce his retirement at noon on 23 December on the occasion of the traditional year-end toast with newsmen accredited to the office of the Army chief of staff. Earlier on the same day, Caridi will bid farewell to Army personnel in a ceremony to be held at Monte Chingolo to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Monte Chingolo military unit.

Neither the Defense Ministry nor the office of the Army chief of staff today released any information on this subject. [passage omitted]

In recent hours, Gen Caridi reportedly sent a radiogram to all Army units reiterating that he shares the objectives "of the Army"—which had been outlined by the rebels—including finding "a prompt, favorable solution" to trials stemming from the antisubversive war; budgetary increases; and stopping attacks on Army personnel by government-owned and related media organizations.

Caridi made it clear, however, that he did not support "the events of January 1988," that is, the uprising at the Monte Caseros-based 5th Infantry Regiment by former Lieutenant Aldo Rico, who surrendered a few days later. [passage omitted]

Army General on 'Struggle Against Subervision'

PY1912181588 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Today II Army Corps Commander General Isidro Caceres expressed his satisfaction regarding remarks made recently by Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena concerning the struggle against subversion. Caceres said that Jaunarena understands very well the problems that we are experiencing. Not only the Army, but the entire nation must correct their mistakes. A reconciliation is necessary because otherwise, Caceres pointed out, we will not progress.

Caceres made these remarks in Rosario after installing Colonel Luis Alberto Cloux as chief of staff of the II Army Corps. Col Cloux is replacing Colonel Rene Antonio Beltramonte, who has retired.

Asked if he had noticed any changes in the tone used by government officials concerning the military men and the struggle against subversion, Gen Caceres said that he could not say that the tone has changed, but the problem is being understood differently. He added that President Alfonsin is speaking of a future war, Vice President Victor Martinez is speaking of the lawfulness of a war, and Defense Minister Jaunarena is speaking about the nature of a different type of war.

Asked if he acted as guarantor of an agreement between Lieutenant General Caridi and rebellious leader Colonel Seineldin, Gen Caceres said that no one acts as a guarantor concerning Army staff activities.

Caceres said that he has advised the Army chief of staff of his request and as the chief, he makes decisions because there are no guarantees here.

Caceres pointed out that complete tranquillity prevails in the II Army Corps, according to the information available to him.

Caceres concluded by stating that, according to previous orders, brigade commanders and some unit chiefs have been replaced and the Army Corps commanders are reporting to the Army chief of staff that the situation has been completely normalized.

Interior Minister To Sign Narcotics Accord

PY2012005988 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Dec 88 p 4

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia left for Vienna, Austria, yesterday afternoon.

Nosiglia, who is president of the antinarcotics commission, will sign an agreement on the illegal traffic of narcotics and hallucinatory substances.

The meeting will be held on 19 and 20 December in Vienna. Nosiglia is expected to return next weekend.

9-Day Police Confinement Ends in La Rioja

PY1912131888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2238 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] La Rioja, 18 Dec (TELAM)—La Rioja police this afternoon ended their confinement to barracks which they began 9 days ago thus allowing the provincial government to consider their demand for a 3,500-austral take-home pay.

The announcement was made at the Police Club, where some 1,000 policemen had confined themselves. The strike had affected the five rural police departments and other low-ranking sections.

Even though there has been no official contact with government officials, who demanded the end of the confinement before negotiating, it has been learned that policemen will receive a 3,040-austral take-home pay plus other benefits.

New Personnel Assignments in Armed Forces

Soviet Military Attache

PY1912233088 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Dec 88 p 7

[Summary] The executive branch has named Commodore Mario Arnaldo Nunez as Air Force and naval attache at the Argentine Embassy in Moscow.

The designation will become effective on 15 January 1989.

5th Infantry Brigade Chief

PY1912232988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1524 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Summary] San Miguel de Tucuman, 19 Dec (TELAM)—Today Colonel Alberto Fernando Dalbo took over as new chief of staff of the 5th Infantry Brigade. Dalbo replaces Colonel Marcelo Zarraga, who was dismissed for supporting Colonel Mohamed Seineldin's rebellion.

Air Force Commander

PY1912233788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1522 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—The Air Force public relations office today reported that Brigadier Hector Luis Destri has taken over as commander, and Brigadier Andres Arnoldo Antonietti as chief of staff of Air Force materiel.

Bolivia

Planning Minister on Argentine Negotiations

PY1912164388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Planning and Coordination Minister Fernando Romero returned to Bolivia a few hours ago from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he conducted arduous negotiations with Argentine Government officials, including talks with President Raul Alfonsin.

The state dignitary will present a detailed report to President Victor Paz sometime today.

Minister Romero conducted negotiations with Argentine Government officials to find a solution to the problems arising from overdue payments on Bolivian natural gas sales to Argentina.

The Argentine debt for gas purchases made starting in 1986 currently totals $151 million and represents 42 percent of the total national treasury revenues.

Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas has told Radio Panamericana that these overdue payments will not prompt an inflation rate increase in the country.

The finance minister admitted that the Bolivian Government is concerned about the damage being done to the Bolivian economy by the noncompliance of Argentina.

Nevertheless, the finance minister pointed out that the Executive Branch has taken the appropriate precautionary measures to prevent this situation from having a dramatic impact on the economy. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Accused of Peruvian's Killing

PY1612142788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0320 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] La Paz, 15 Dec (EFE)—General David Hinojosa, Bolivian police commander general, today admitted that members of the Peruvian guerrilla movement, the Shining Path, are in Bolivia.

Hinojosa told the press in Cochabamba that the assassination of the Peruvian Embassy naval attache in La Paz on 6 December was carried out by Shining Path militants.

Hinojosa said the crime was "a political act" carried out by the Shining Path.

Hinojosa said the investigation of the case continues, but gave no details. The commander added that the police will issue an official report in the next few days.

Vega Llona was shot three times at a corner located only 100 meters from the Peruvian Embassy in La Paz. The shots were fired by a woman and a man who left a leaflet

placing responsibility for the murder on "The Revolutionary Labor Movement," heretofore unknown in Bolivia, and presumably linked to Shining Path.

$14-Million Spanish Line of Credit Approved

PY1912172088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Summary] Ricardo Rojas, the Bolivian Central Bank general manager, has reported that the executive board of the Bolivian Central Bank has approved a Spanish line of credit totalling $14 million. This credit line will benefit both the private and government sectors.

Brazil

Finance Minister Announces Studies on Economy

PY1712010088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] In Sao Paulo, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has denied the existence of any plan called the Summer Plan.

In an interview with the media, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega denied that the government is preparing a special emergency program to fight inflation, as reported by a SAO PAULO newspaper. What in fact is being done, according to the minister, are studies for a full reform of the administration.

[Begin Nobrega recording] I have just talked with Minister Costa Couto, who confirmed he has made no such statement. I read today in a large Sao Paulo newspaper that the government is preparing a so-called Summer Plan. This is not true. The government continues to fight the basic causes of inflation, which lie in the expenditures of the government, but it is not considering any special program called the Summer Plan or any other name to fight inflation on an emergency basis. There are, however, studies being made in some areas of the government aimed at the administrative structure that deals with federal problems. [end recording]

Minister Mailson da Nobrega also affirmed that the end of the Price Reference Unit, URP, which is used to readjust salaries, is to be expected, because its elimination will do more good than its existence does. He defended the de-indexation of the economy through negotiations between employers and employees to readjust prices and salaries on the basis of expected inflation.

[Begin Nobrega recording] De-indexation is necessary to definitively remedy the chronic inflation we suffer. It should be sought through a social pact, that is, through negotiations between employers, workers, and the government to set prices and salaries on the basis of expected inflation, not on the basis of the previous quarter as the URP does. With that aim, we will have to convince workers that through the social pact it will be possible to reduce inflation; it will benefit them if they give up the URP method of salary readjustment. [end recording]

President of Petrobras Tenders Resignation

PY1912232588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Petrobras President Armando Guedes today tendered his resignation to Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves, who is in Belo Horizonte. Tomorrow Guedes will testify before the Chamber of Deputies Control and Oversight Committee in Brasilia.

Today, after the dedication of a gas pipeline in Sao Paulo, Guedes referred to the date when he will leave Petrobras.

[Begin Guedes recording] It will depend on Minister Chaves' decision to present to the president of the Republic the resignation I submitted for his consideration. But a decision has been made. [end recording]

Police Arrest Traffickers, Seize Cocaine

PY1712012788 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Summary] The federal police today presented one of the largest cocaine traffickers in Sao Paulo, Jose Marques de Souza. He was arrested yesterday at his residence in the Pirituba neighborhood in the west end of Sao Paulo. Arrested along with Marques de Souza were Joao Orivaldo Bona, Altair Aparecido Pedro, Anibal Berzoni Filho, and Solange Aparecida Gomes. The police seized 5 kg of cocaine, a revolver, measuring scales, and a drum of ether. The group had been smuggling cocaine from Bolivia.

Today, the federal police arrested Guilhermo Teishima Peres, alias Tanaca, in Guaratingueta, Sao Paulo State. He heads the ring that uses the port of Santos to ship cocaine from Colombia and Venezuela to the United States and Europe.

Chile

Official Sees New Plebiscite on Constitution

PY1912191488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1750 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 19 Dec (AFP)—Government official Fernando Maturana has reported that the Chilean military government, defeated in the 5 October plebiscite, will probably organize a new plebiscite within the next 4 months to submit, for the people's consideration, the constitutional amendments demanded by political parties.

After the October plebiscite, when his bid to continue in power until 1997 was rejected, Pinochet stated that there will be a presidential election in December 1989, but he refused to amend the Constitution to accelerate the reestablishment of democracy, as proposed by the opposition.

Maturana, a member of the pro-government National Renewal Party, has stated, however, that if most parties support the amendments, there will be a call for a new plebiscite.

According to procedures in effect since 1981, constitutional amendments must be approved by the government military junta, which is playing the role of the legislative branch, and then submitted to a plebiscite.

In remarks made in Iquique, 1,460 km north of Santiago, Maturana stated that the new plebiscite would be held in March or April 1989.

Stange Denies Plebiscite

PY1912203088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1904 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 19 Dec (EFE)—General Rodolfo Stange, member of the Chilean Government military junta and director general of Carabineros, today denied reports of a plebiscite to amend the national Constitution.

Gen Stange thus denied remarks by Fernando Maturana, leader of the pro-government National Renewal Party (PARENA), who said the junta will probably call for a plebiscite in March or April 1989 to amend the Constitution, as provided by the law.

The PARENA has presented a proposal with 10 constitutional amendments that are in line with the proposals presented on Saturday, 17 December, by the 17- member opposition Coalition of Parties for Democracy (CPPD).

The Carabineros director stated that "they are respectable proposals and ideas, but the time is not appropriate for them. We will wait for a period of greater tranquillity in the people's spirit, and then we will see what can be done."

Interior Minster Carlos Caceres, designated after the defeat of the single presidential candidacy of General Augusto Pinochet in the 5 October plebiscite, has stated that the Constitution can be "enhanced."

However, Gen Pinochet himself stated afterward that the Constitution is "unchangeable," and rejected four amendments proposed by the CPPD.

Episcopal Conference Urges Peaceful Transition

PY1912203788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0126 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 17 Dec (EFE)—At the end of a 5-day meeting, the Chilean Episcopal Conference today made an appeal to "vanquish the temptation of violence."

Bishop Sergio Contreras, secretary general of the Episcopal Conference, released the document containing the main consclusions of the meeting.

The text states that "next year, the year of the transition to full democracy, will be a year in which the politicians who lead the social, labor, economic, and cultural life of our fatherland will shoulder a great responsibility."

The bishops appeal to the believers "to support the politicians with their prayers so they will be able to fulfill their responsibilities, so they can jointly find the paths of understanding and not of confrontation, of solidarity and not of egoism, of hope and not of frustration."

The 1980 Constitution establishes that presidential and multiparty congressional elections should be held on 14 December 1989, the first such elections since the 11 September 1973 military coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet to power.

Msgr Contreras stated that "dialogue between businessmen and workers should continue. Dialogue must continue at all levels. The temptation of violence must be vanquished. The hope of the poor must not be deceived."

In a statement to the local media, the secretary general of the Episcopal Conference criticized the statements by Navy Commander Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, who yesterday said that if the extremists "want to shoot it out, we will shoot it out."

Sergio Contreras said the Catholic Church "does not believe in war. The Chilean people aspire to a democracy that gives them the opportunity to disagree and jointly seeks solutions, not just to exchange shots."

Santiago Archbishop Rejects PCCh Document

PY1912125588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0305 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 18 Dec (EFE)—Santiago Archbishop Monsignor Juan Francisco Fresno today called for an end to violence and extremism in Chile, and rejected a document issued by the outlawed Communist Party (PCCh) on its 15th Congress, which has been held in secret.

Fresno mentioned this, following his visit to the minor, Mauricio Vera Berrios, who was seriously injured in a terrorist attack in Copiapo, 804 km north of Santiago.

Asked about the PCCh document, which "justifies the use of violence against the Pinochet dictatorship," Cardinal Fresno answered: "I categorically reject it, everyone should reject it."

The Chilean military regime has blamed the violent actions that were staged this week—in which 20 people were injured, two of them seriously—on the Communist Party and on the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), which is considered the armed branch of the PCCh.

Fresno said that "violence is not just. Extremist actions that claim innocent victims, like this child, are particularly unjust."

Three Officers Die in Helicopter Accident

PY1912231788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1435 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 19 Dec (EFE)—Military sources today reported that three Chilean Army officers, one of them the commander of a regiment, have died in a helicopter accident during a patrol operation.

The same sources reported that in the zone of Coyhaique, 1,950 km south of Santiago, Colonel Rodolfo Vargas, the commander of the "Bulnes" 26th Regiment, headquartered in that southern city, died along with two other officers when their helicopter crashed.

The officers were flying in search of a deserter from that regiment when the accident took place yesterday afternoon.

Police sources have also reported that the three people injured in an attack on a bridge that took place yesterday near Tongoy Beach, some 600 km north of Santiago, are members of a military unit of that area.

The same sources reported that those injured, an officer and two noncommissioned officers, were crossing the bridge in a private car when a bomb exploded destroying the bridge.

The three military men suffered relatively serious injuries.

IDB Approves $45.5-Million Highway Loan

PY2012005088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Dec 88 p B-14

[Summary] The IDB Executive Board on 7 December unanimously approved a $45.5-million loan to Chile for the improvement of highways.

Statistics Institute Announces Unemployment Rate

PY2012004888 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Dec 88 pp A-1, 12

[Summary] The National Institute of Statistics has announced that the unemployment rate dropped to 8 percent in the third quarter of 1988. This figure represents a 0.7 percent drop from the previous quarter and a 1.6 percent drop from the third quarter of last year. The 8 percent rate represents a group of 6.7 percent who are actually unemployed and a group of 1.3 percent who are looking for jobs for the first time.

Colombia

Government Hopes for Expanded Ties With Taiwan

OW1512010588 Taipei CNA in English 1504 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Bogota, Dec 14 (CNA)—Colombia wishes to strengthen relations with the Republic of China [ROC], and to set up a commercial office in Taipei.

This was revealed Tuesday by the Presidential Economic Adviser Enrique Penalosa during a meeting with Yu Kwang-ya, director general of the "Export Processing Zones Administration" of the ROC Ministry of Economic Affairs.

According to Penalosa, President Virgilio Barco has watched closely the development of Colombia's relationship with the ROC.

He also exchanged views with Yu on how to improve the relations between Colombia and the Republic of China.

Yu proposed Colombia first send personnel to the ROC's "export processing zones" to receive 1-2 week training, then adopt measures to induce some foreign companies to set up their factories in Colombia.

Army Kills 4 EPL 'Subversives' in Clash

PA1912041388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Report by Hector Gomez Cavarid]

[Text] Four subversives of the Popular Liberation Army, EPL, were killed in the past few hours in rural parts of Tibu municipality, Norte de Santander Department, by troops of the 5th Brigade under General Alfonso Vaca Perilla. The confrontation took place between the La Vega and La Pena streams, where units of the Maza Battalion came upon the EPL's Carlos Julio Garcia column.

Two of the four subversives killed were named Luis Miguel Gomez and Ramon Elias Arengas. The authorities also seized several handguns, rifles, grenades, and documents of the outlawed EPL.

Military spokesmen have said new confrontations should be expected in the next few hours.

13 Wounded in Attack on Military Truck

PA1812225888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Report by Oscar Galvin]

[Text]Four soldiers and nine civilians who were wounded in an attack on a military truck yesterday are now recovering in the Bogota Central Military Hospital.

The attack took place at 2140 on 11th South Street and 2d Avenue in the Santa Ana neighborhood in southern Bogota. A dynamite charge was detonated as the truck drove past. The truck was carrying soldiers and musicians from the Army's Logistics Battalion who were going to a Christmas celebration in a northern town. Four soldiers and nine civilians were wounded in the explosion, which was so strong it destroyed the windows of nearby houses. This is the second attack on the military in Bogota in less than a month.

M-19 Announces 'Military Demobilization'

PA1712044288 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Bogota—The M-19 has reportedly set a 6-month deadline for the military demobilization of all its fronts and its internal transformation toward becoming a political movement.

The M-19's top leaders stated this after President Virgilio Barco's announcement of starting a direct dialogue with the M-19.

Ecuador

Navy Commander Urges Respect for Armed Forces

PA1912121688 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Guayaquil—During a military ceremony in this city, Admiral Hugo Unda recalled the speech he delivered when he assumed command of the Navy. In that speech, he said that military power must be subordinate to political power and that a constitutional regime must include the reciprocal consideration that the Armed Forces deserve.

Unda said that after 4 months of calm, however, some politicians who do not understand the democratic system have harassed the Armed Forces several times, thus abusing or trying to take advantage of the Armed Forces's position.

Unda added that the goal of the radical, extremist ideologies represented by those politicians is to question and weaken the Armed Forces.

Unda discussed local politics, saying that experience has proven a nation cannot be led without politicians and that the most important thing is to know how to select good ones. Unda said the country must engage in politics of careful analysis, realism, and good taste, because so far the country has engaged in aggressive politics and verbal battles.

In conclusion, Unda reiterated that the Armed Forces know, understand, accept, and respect the role that each state institution must play. Unda warned: Let us first show respect and then demand it.

Paraguay

Interior Minister Rejects Argentine Statement

PY2012022088 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] Sabino Augusto Montanaro, interior minister and president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, yesterday strongly rejected "the alleged concern of the Argentine Government over the arrests in Paraguay" as reported by EFE and published by the press. Montanaro added: "No one should be concerned about the internal affairs of our country."

Montanaro was asked about the concern conveyed by the Alfonsin Government regarding the arrests in our country. He answered that "with all respect, we should say that the Colorado Government of President Stroessner has always said that in accordance with the national Constitution we wish to live in peace with all nations and to maintain commercial and cultural relations with them keeping in mind respect for the juridical equality of nations and especially respecting the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other nations and the self-determination of peoples."

Montanaro added that "this is why we strongly reject the alleged Argentine concern over the arrests in Paraguay as reported by the press from EFE, reports stating that President Alfonsin is concerned over the arrests and incommunicado status of several people in Paraguay."

Montanaro said he personally did not receive any information in this regard, and that had he received any he would have rejected "the concern of Alfonsin, who appears as though he is negotiating the release of the detainees."

He added: "We Paraguayans are also concerned over the institutional crisis in the Argentine Republic, where three military uprisings against Alfonsin have seriously jeopardized Argentine political stability. We can mention the latest crisis in which General Caridi confronted Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, and also the wave of subversion in which Osvaldo Horacio Olmedo, a 44-year-old Paraguayan who was identified as a member of a terrorist organization, was killed in a clash with the government."

He went on to say that "we are well aware of the international conspiracy of ultraleftist guerrilla groups that are operating in Argentina. We thank God that this type of terrorism does not operate here against the Colorado Government."

He said: "Therefore, I would like to tell the people that no one should be concerned about our internal affairs because we have a Constitution, laws, and 1,500,000 members of the Colorado Party who are willing to defend the Constitution and human rights if antisocials of the ultraleft want to operate in Paraguay."

Montanaro reiterated that he was not informed of the concern expressed by Alfonsin or his representative in our country. But he added that if a statement of concern in this regard is received, "the nationalist government of President Stroessner will show that it is enforcing the Constitution regarding the arrested persons who are the proteges [protegidos] of the Argentine Government, a sister nation which, as I said, is having institutional, economic, and electoral problems. The Argentine Government should be more concerned about those problems rather than being concerned about our affairs, because we can solve our problems."

Radio Caritas Reporters Released, Others Held

PY1612172788 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Dec 88 p 9

[Text] Our colleague Teresa Godoy and several members of opposition political parties are still being detained in police facilities. Godoy is being held in the 12th Police Precinct after she was forced to get into a vehicle in front of the National Congress building, where she carries out her journalistic activities.

She was arrested without a reason or a warrant and taken to that police precinct.

The police are especially persecuting reporters from Radio Caritas. Teresa Godoy works for that radio station. Juanita Carracella, who also works for Radio Caritas, was also arrested upon arriving to work, but released on the night of 13 December.

Reporters Oscar Acosta, Edilberto Vargas and Cesar Velazquez, who also work for Radio Caritas, were released after being detained for almost 8 days. These men were arrested in different police operations without a reason or a warrant. Felipe Duarte, member of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, was also released.

Opposition Leaders Released

PY1612221888 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Dec 88 p 8

[Excerpt] This morning, the following opposition members were released: Domingo Laino, Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, and Luis Guanes Gondra of the Authentic Liberal Radical Party; Armando Centurion of the Naumann Foundation; Waldino Ramon Lovera, Alejandro Stumps, and Eduardo San Martin of the Colorado Popular Movement; Pedro Dario Portillo of the Churches Committee for Emergency Assistance; Radio Caritas and HOY newspaper reporter Teresa Godoy; Ligia Prieto de Centurion, coordinator of the Paraguayan Women's Union; Marina Arrom, member of FETRABAM [Bank Workers Federation]; and Elsa Mereles, chairperson of the Hospital de Clinicas Nurses and Employees Association. [passage omitted]

6 Leaders Released; 6 Detained

PY2012022988 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 19 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] Of the 12 leaders and members of political and social organizations who have been detained without a court order and held without any explanation by the police, 6 were released this morning while another 6 remain in jail.

The two women held at the 12th Police Precinct were released this morning. They are Maria Ligia Centurion Prieto from the Association of Paraguayan Women [Union de Mujeres Paraguayas] and Cristina Vila, attorney for the Team of National Missions, Church Pastoral Movement [Social Pastoral], and the Churches Committee.

Marcial Gonzalez Safstrand from the Socialist Democratic Movement (MDS) branch of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF]; Rene Recalde from the Laymen's National Movement [Equipo Nacional de Laicos]; Alejandro Ladalardo, head of the Human Rights Department of the Churches Committee; and Gabriel Espinola, secretary general of the Organization of Paraguayan Education Workers were also released.

MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] President Miguel Angel Casabianca; Gilberto Medina from the PRF; Miguel Abdon Saguier from the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] Popular Mobilization for Change; Ronald Orrego, FETRABAN [Federation of Bank Workers] secretary general; Isidoro Coronel, bricklayer; and Gustavo Galeano from the Don Bosco Communications Club remain in custody.

Police Allegedly Beat, Detain 'Subversive'

PY1712012388 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Dec 88 p 7

[Text] At about 1200 today six plainclothesmen stopped Miguel Abdon Saguier at the corner of Palma and Independencia Nacional Streets, beat him, and put him in a car, which allegedly headed for the central police station.

Hilda Granada, Saguier's office secretary, who was with him at the time of his detention, said: "They brutally beat him and yelled: 'This will show you how we treat subversives.' Then they put him in a car and quickly drove him away."

Saguier heads the Popular Movement for Change, which organized the "March for Life" demonstration staged in several districts of Asuncion on 10 December.

Many passersby saw Saguier being detained by the six plainclothesmen who probably work at the Police Investigation Department.

Government Employees Receive Salary Increase

PY1612172588 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Dec 88 p 9

[Text] Yesterday the government released a decree granting a salary increase for public employees, members of the Armed Forces and police, and retired personnel. The increase will go into effect on 1 January 1989 in accordance with the national budget for the 1989 fiscal year.

The salary increase ranges from 30 to 45 percent. The largest increase is for those with lower salaries.

Peru

Alfonsin in Lima for Plant Dedication

PY1912145188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1439 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Dec (TELAM)—Argentine President Raul Alfonsin arrived at 1215 (Argentine time) in Lima, Peru, after a flight that lasted slightly over 4 hours. President Alfonsin will dedicate, together with his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia, the Huarangal Nuclear Plant, designed and built by the Argentine CNEA.

The Argentine presidential press secretariat announced Alfonsin's arrival in Lima a few minutes ago. Alfonsin departed for Lima shortly before 0800 local time from the Ezeiza International Airport.

Departs Lima

PY1912220888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2111 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 19 Dec (TELAM)—Argentine President Raul Alfonsin departed today at 1830 (Argentine time) from Lima, Peru, at the end of a brief visit to that country.

It is estimated that Alfonsin will arrive back in Argentina at 2230.

Fisheries Minister Denies Cabinet Resignation

PY2012013988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0104 GMT 20 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 19 Dec (EFE)—Peruvian Fisheries Minister Romulo Leon Alegria and Vice Minister of the Presidency Jose Luis Perez Sanchez Cerro today denied there has been a cabinet resignation in the country.

The current cabinet, the third one since President Alan Garcia's inauguration 3 and ½ years ago, is headed by Minister of the Presidency Armando Villanueva del Campo, 73.

The conservative newspaper EXPRESO citing sources close to the executive branch, had today reported Villanueva's resignation. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Controls Peasant Communities

PY2012015488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 18 Dec (EFE)—The Lima newspaper EXPRESO today reported that more than a score of peasant communities in two provinces of Junin Department in the Central Mountain Region of Peru are under the control of the "Shining Path" terrorist group.

According to the source, Shining Path controls a total of 25 communities in the western region of the provinces of Concepcion and Huancayo, where Shining Path activists have forced the main authorities to resign.

The source added that Shining Path established this control 2 years ago after a number of attacks that destroyed the facilities of social agricultural enterprises and murdered officials, executives, and workers of these enterprises in the communities.

The newspaper adds that the police from Huancayo, capital of Huancayo Province and Department, 315 km east of Lima, have recorded the murders of 15 people in these two provinces including 4 policemen and an Army officer. These murders were carried out by Shining Path members this year.

It also reports that state and private aid projects for the peasants and communities of the region have been terminated because several professionals and technicians in charge of these projects have been murdered and others have left because of death threats.

One of the main targets of "Shining Path" in Junin Department—in addition to the communities in the highest, most distant, and most isolated areas, and of the facilities of agrarian and livestock cooperatives—has been the electric towers of the electricity line from the Rio Mantaro hydroelectric dam.

The victims of subversion and of the struggle against it since "Shining Path" began its violent actions in 1980 amount to 12,000, while the property damage caused by their attacks amounts to more than $10 billion.

Police Uncover Cocaine Processing Chemicals

PY1912234588 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Summary] On 19 December a police raid in Tocache, San Martin Department, uncovered a huge stock of chemicals used for the manufacturing of cocaine.

The police seized 3,682 gallons of acetone in 74 barrels, 320 kg of calcium carbonate, and 48 gallons of hydrochloric acid. The police were unable to arrest anyone, but they identified Antonio Munar Beltran, a Colombian citizen.

Uruguay

Troops To Participate in UN Peacekeeping Force

PY1912002688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0115 GMT 18 Dec 88

[Text] Montevideo, 17 Dec (EFE)—It was reported in Montevideo today that Uruguay will be part of the UN peacekeeping force at the Angolan and Namibian border.

The UN peacekeeping force was created by the recent agreement signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa with U.S. mediation which, among other things, established a plebiscite to decide on the independence of Namibia.

EL PAIS today reported that the United Nations has asked the Uruguayan Government to be a member of the peacekeeping force, and that the Uruguayan answer was positive.

The UN secretary general and UN Security Council will soon decide which countries will supply the forces, how many, and other organizational details.

According to the agreement, the South African troops will withdraw from Angola and Namibia, and the Cuban forces will withdraw from Angola within 27 months and a plebiscite to decide the independence of Namibia will be held next April under UN organization and control.

Uruguay currently has a UN force in the Sinai (Egypt-Israel) and at the Iran-Iraq border. Uruguayan officers also have acted as observers in Kampuchea.

The UN peacekeeping force's "blue helmets" were given the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

Leftist Broad Front 'About To Fall Apart'

PY1612190588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0852 GMT 16 Dec 88

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 16 Dec (EFE)—The Uruguayan Leftist Experience [Broad Front], the only group in the world to gather Christians, socialists, Marxists, Maoists, Trotskyists, and liberals in a single political coalition, is about to fall apart some 17 years after it was created.

The coalition was formed to break the historical two-party system of "Colorados" and "Blancos."

Tomorrow, Saturday, the plenary session of the organizations of the Broad Front, which in the past two democratic elections, 1971 and 1984, received 21 percent of the votes, will decide on its future electoral action, after a year of disagreements between reformist and traditional leaders.

The possibility of designating two presidential candidates, taking advantage of the Uruguayan electoral system, and trying to prevent the rupture of the front seems to be vanishing, because no agreement has been reached between the contesting forces.

On the one hand, the communist, the socialist, the Marxist, and other minor allied parties have presented their leader and president, General Liber Seregni, 72, as their only candidate.

On the other hand, the moderate sectors of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and the largest sector of the Broad Front, the Party for the Government of the People, have proposed Senator Hugo Batalla, 51, as their candidate in an internal struggle with Seregni.

The most radical sectors of the left have opposed the idea of having two presidential candidates because they, as well as the Christian Democrats and other moderate groups, consider the Broad Front to be a party and not a coalition.

Batalla has suggested that he and Seregni both resign their positions as presidential candidates to prevent the division of the Broad Front, but Seregni refused to resign.

Batalla also asked his party to relieve him from his post as delegate to the Broad Front, which will meet tomorrow to decide on the organization's future.

At that meeting, by request of the communists and other organizations, Seregni will be presented as the single candidate. This will force the moderate groups to accept the decision, or to split the coalition.

PDC Deputy Hector Lescano has stated that his group "does not feel represented by Seregni," and added that "we have told him of our decisions." However, he expressed support to Batalla and to the two-presidential candidate system.

The Party for the Government of the People [PGP], in its most recent meeting, decided to present Batalla as its candidate, which means that it is not accepting the idea of Seregni as the single candidate for the 1989 elections.

The Broad Front, since its creation, has offered executive posts to those "independent" of the groups that make up the Front, and Batalla's candidacy has initiated the end of the single leftist front experience.

But according to sources of the organization, the problems do not stem exclusively from names of candidates. They are "much more serious" because no agreement has been reached for the restructuring of the front.

Batalla's group has pointed out that over the past 7 months it has had differences with Marxist sectors, and it has tried to take the leading role that was demanded by its moderate voters to counteract the activities of the Communist Party and its allies.

Batalla, a lawyer, a journalist, and a former congressional colleague of current President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, is the successor to Senator Zelmar Michelini who was murdered. Both of them left the ruling liberal Colorado Party in 1971 to form the Broad Front.

The leftist coalition is made up of 15 political parties, of which only 6 have representatives in the Chamber of Deputies, and 4 have representatives in the Senate.

The faction led by Batalla is responsible for 11 of the 21 Broad Front Deputies and 3 of the 6 Senators. Within the plenary session of the coalition where the political decisions are made, it only has 12 of the 119 votes for "essential issues," due to the organization's functioning system, which could not be reorganized as the PDC and the PGP wanted.

In June, Batalla's group proposed that the coalition's decisionmaking group be made up only "of those political groups with their own electoral representatives," which means that they must have a list of Senators.

Both the PDC and the PGP claim the existence of two sectors of the left. This is rejected by the communists.

According to communist leader Leon Lev, there is only one left, "and it is strong" [que no es de unas pintadas].

According to public opinion, Batalla will retain the number of his moderate voters, and will most probably increase it if he leaves the "Front," but Batalla would rather make a personal sacrifice than split the coalition.

Controversy Over Selling Gold Reserves Disclosed

PY1512175788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0937 GMT 15 Dec 88

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 15 Dec (EFE)—The presidential precandidates of the official Colorado Party in Uruguay have reopened an old controversy about the need to sell or not to sell part of the gold reserves of the official banks to pay the foreign debt of $6.046 billion.

Jorge Batlle, senator and the most important leader of the Colorado Party, officially said that if he is chosen presidential candidate he will propose in his 5-year program the sale of the gold reserves "to lower inflation and to kill off the foreign debt."

His opponent, Vice President Enrique Tarigo, has said that Uruguay "has good international credit and does not have to resort to the sale of its gold reserves."

Gold represents 85 percent of Uruguayan international reserves. Estimating the gold at $371.78 per troy ounce—about $50 below the current international gold price—the Central Bank has $1,085,100,000 in reserves.

If we add the gold reserves of the Bank of the Republic, which is also the state bank that is used to issue money, the Uruguayan gold reserves are about $2 billion at the current gold value of $430 per troy ounce.

The accumulated gold is worth approximately one third of the Uruguayan foreign debt which could be increased to one half if a cash payment is negotiated with the creditors. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Government Official, Lusinchi Deny Coup Rumors

PA1612152188 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1421 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Caracas, 16 Dec (DPA)—Secretariat of the Presidency Minister Carlos Croes has denied reports that this past Wednesday two military airplanes unexpectedly flew over the presidential palace in Caracas as a cabinet meeting was taking place.

Yesterday Caracas newspapers reported such flights. Croes said it is possible that what was seen was a private jet [as received] flying over the Miraflores Palace.

Meanwhile, President Jaime Lusinchi has categorically stated that "in Venezuela there is no rattling of swords" and that "we must stop fearing the military." In saying this he was responding to street rumors about coups d'etat fed by reports such as those about the flights of the two planes—allegedly Mirage jets.

At dawn on 1 November, a small fleet of military planes flew over Caracas, creating tension among the people. It was explained however, that this flight was a result of a route change due to weather conditions. A week earlier small tanks were mobilized in the capital. Lusinchi was out of the country at the time.

In a statement published by VENPRESS, Lusinchi noted: "It is important that we civilians do not act unwisely, that we do not mistrust ourselves, and that we do not provoke social turmoil by shouting from the rooftops that controversial actions are taking place."

President-Elect Perez Leaves for Spain, U.S.

PA1912135488 Paris AFP in Spanish 1148 GMT 19 Dec 88

[Text] Caracas, 19 Dec (AFP)—Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez (Social Democrat) left yesterday for Spain on a private visit, spokesmen from his office announced today.

Perez, who was president from 1974 to 1979 was reelected on 4 December for a 5-year term, which begins on 2 February.

The president-elect will meet with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and will also take several days of vacation, Caracas EL UNIVERSAL reported.

Afterward, Perez will go to New York, possibly to attend to matters related to the health of some family members.

Castro To Attend Perez Inauguration on 2 Feb

PA1712151588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1450 GMT 17 Dec 88

[Text] Caracas, 17 Dec (DPA)—Cuban President Fidel Castro will attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez on 2 February, according to a report published today by the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, which cited "sources close" to the president-elect.

According to the paper, Perez and his aides are preparing topics to be discussed on the occasion, when an undetermined number of other heads of state will also be present.

There has been much speculation in Venezuela about the possibility that Castro will visit the country. In his first news conference this week after being officially proclaimed president-elect, Perez refrained from confirming or denying the rumor, saying that "nothing definite has been arranged."

EL NACIONAL said today that everything has been arranged for the Cuban leader to attend Perez' inauguration. These arrangements will be similar to those made when Castro attended the recent inauguration of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja.

Suriname

'Champion of Human Rights' Rensch Arrested

Various Groups Respond

PM1612141588 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 12 Dec 88 p 3

[Wim Noordegraaf dispatch: "Human Rights Activist Rensch Arrested"]

[Text] Paramaribo—Stanley Rensch, champion of human rights in Suriname, was arrested by the military police upon his arrival at Zanderij Airport. A high-ranking officer was waiting for him by the aircraft ramp and Rensch was immediately taken to a military police office for a 1/2-hour interrogation. Rensch was then led out through a back door to a waiting car and taken to a police station in Paramaribo.

Last week a warrant was issued for the arrest of Rensch for alleged support for Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle Commando. Arrested members of the Brunswijk group have made statements incriminating Rensch, and from these the attorney general concluded that Rensch could be guilty of plotting "an uprising against the government and an attempt on the life of the commander in chief of the National Army." Both Rensch and his human rights bureau, Moi Wana'86, have denied the allegations.

The arrest of Rensch was witnessed by diplomats from the Netherlands, U.S., French, and Venezuelan Embassies. On behalf of his government, U.S. Ambassador Howland has sent a note to Surinamese Foreign Minister Sedoc expressing concern over a possible attempt "to intimidate an outspoken defender of human rights in his country."

When Rensch was taken away through areas of the airport to which the diplomats had no access, the U.S. Embassy's second in command and the Venezuelan Embassy secretary sprinted to the service exit, where, together with Moi Wana'86 sympathizers, they saw a car screeching out through the gate.

Stanley Rensch was returning from the United States after visiting the U.S. State Department, where he took part in celebrations to mark Human Rights Day. He ignored an appeal from his wife, who has been living in the Netherlands for the past year, not to return to Suriname. The Moi Wana'86 human rights bureau has issued a statement that "the work to prevent and combat human rights violations will continue."

Yesterday Rensch was transferred from the police station to Fort Zeelandia, the headquarters of the military police, where interrogations have begun in the presence of a lawyer engaged by Moi Wana'86. Members of

Rensch's family were allowed to bring in clothing, but food and medicines were refused—something that, according to the lawyer, "was due to a misunderstanding."

The Surinamese Government has so far remained aloof. President Shankar has said that he "has no contacts with Rensch." Shankar's remarks are a reaction to a statement from Moi Wana'86 reporting Rensch's involvement in the peace process in eastern Suriname.

OAS Meets With Shankar

FL1612214588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] The OAS Human Rights Commission yesterday held discussions with President Ramsewak Shankar and Vice President Henck Arron. The commission expressed its concern about the arrest of Stanley Rensch.

According to the commission, this has given Suriname a bad impression abroad. The president pointed out to the commission that four terrorists of the Brunswijk gang have made incriminating statements against Rensch, and that he was arrested on the basis of those statements.

The OAS Human Rights Commission said that they also received reports which state that the (?fight) is being carried out against Bush Negros. President Shankar categorically denied it, and he said the government takes measures against gangs which (?provoke), plunder, and kill in the interior. The president said that it is (?regrettable) if people refer to these measures against the gangs as the fight against Bush Negros.

The Commission proposes to conduct its training and workshops on human rights in Suriname. This proposal has been accepted by the president.

Human Rights Group Visits

FL1512135988 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] A delegation from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission visited imprisoned human rights activist Stanley Rensch yesterday in Suriname. His arrest on Saturday [11 Dec] has gotton much of the attention of the visiting delegation. Early yesterday, the commission met with Foreign Minister Eddy Sedoc to discuss the arrest. Meanwhile, four other people have been arrested in connection with Mr Rensch's case. All are Bush Negros.

More on Rensch's Arrest

FL1612115788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek said he is disturbed about the questions surrounding the arrest of Surinamese human rights activist Stanley Rensch. Mr Van den Broek said doubts about civil liberties and justice in Suriname would affect relations between the two countries.